



Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-94-098
Friday
20 May 1994

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Japan

Further on Resumption of Framework Talks

Foreign Minister Expresses Hope

OW2005032294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0255 GMT
20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa expressed hopes Friday for the resumption of framework trade talks between Japan and the United States.

Speaking to reporters after Thursday's bilateral trade talks in Washington, Kakizawa said, "I hear the talks began in a friendly atmosphere. The U.S. negotiators are apparently going to consider the Japanese proposals and it seems they will also be taking a constructive attitude."

Tokyo has dispatched two senior officials—Sozaburo Okamatsu, vice trade minister for international affairs, and Sadayuki Hayashi, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs—to the closed-door meeting.

In comments made after Friday's cabinet meeting, Kakizawa said he has learned that the bilateral meeting is expected to continue Friday. Asked whether he would visit the U.S., Kakizawa said he would like to make a decision after receiving more reports on the talks.

U.S. Shows Guarded Optimism

OW2005013094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0038 GMT
20 May 94

[By Antonio Kamiya]

[Text] Washington, May 19 KYODO—The United States sounded cautiously optimistic about mending troubled trade ties with Japan Thursday [19 May] as senior Japanese and U.S. officials opened a fresh round of exploratory talks on how to salvage a market-opening agreement between the two countries.

"We had a good start," U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor told reporters after emerging from a 40-minute opening session with the Japanese delegation.

Officials from the two sides huddled for several hours behind closed doors at the office of the U.S. trade representative as they weighed terms and conditions for resuming stalled trade talks under the so-called "framework" agreement concluded last July.

Japanese and U.S. officials taking part in the talks, which are expected to stretch over into Friday, maintained a virtual news blackout on what transpired across the negotiating table.

Kantor said the two sides "had an exchange of detailed ideas," but declined to shed any light on what the Japanese officials are offering for resumption of the framework talks.

The trade talks, which are aimed at widening foreign access to the Japanese market and reducing Japan's vast

trade surplus, broke down in February after Tokyo rejected U.S.-proposed yardsticks to measure Japanese imports.

Japan's Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, in talks with President Bill Clinton over the phone shortly after he took office in late April, has promised to work to get the talks back on track.

Tokyo dispatched two senior officials—Sozaburo Okamatsu, vice trade minister for international affairs, and Sadayuki Hayashi, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs—for the exploratory talks after Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa held another round of telephone conversations with Kantor last week.

"The fact that the foreign minister and the prime minister directed these officials to come here ... for discussion is at least a potentially hopeful sign," Kantor told a congressional subcommittee Thursday.

While Kantor says the U.S. has set no "time limit" for a deal, one obvious deadline is June 30 when the U.S. Government is due to decide whether to cite Japan for discriminating against U.S. firms on government procurement of medical and telecommunications equipment.

Both industry sectors are among the priority areas covered under the framework negotiations.

Meanwhile, in an television interview Thursday, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown reiterated that Washington will insist on "measurable, monitorable results" in fashioning a trade agreement with Tokyo.

Brown, speaking after fresh trade data showed that the U.S. trade deficit with Japan jumped 25.4 percent to 5.80 billion dollars in March, warned that sanctions against Japan remain an option if there is no improvement in trade ties.

"You have vehicles such as (Super 301 trade sanctions) to use when necessary. That is not said in any kind of threatening way. We have not made any decisions as to whether use that but that is certainly an option available," Brown said in the interview.

SDF Supports U.S. Landing Drills at Iwojima

OW2005120294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT
20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF) is boosting support of a night-landing practice (NLP) by U.S. military aircraft at Iwo Island, popularly known as Iwojima, about 1,300 kilometers south of Tokyo.

It was the first time the SDF backed the solo exercise by planes from the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence. Previously the SDF had cooperated with the U.S. Forces as part of a joint military drill.

The U.S. Forces previously conducted NLP at Atsugi Naval Air Station in Kanagawa Prefecture. But Japan

and the United States agreed to move the landings to Iwojima starting last year due to complaints of noise from residents around Atsugi.

This year's practice is one of the largest, with 25 deck planes and some 400 pilots participating.

In cooperation, the Air Self-Defense Force has dispatched 10 transport planes to carry U.S. ground crew officials and materials, while the Maritime Self-Defense Force offered 20 officials to back up air control and ground support and a rescue plane in case of an accident.

Japan has also spent some 17 billion yen to construct lodging and hangars for the U.S. forces in Iwojima. The U.S. is expected to spend about 33 million yen for NLP this year, according to official sources.

Speculation is that the SDF support is to pave the way for concluding the acquisition and cross-servicing agreement (ACSA) with the U.S., in which the two forces provide each other with materials.

Conclusion of the ACSA suddenly became an issue due to concerns that North Korea may be building nuclear weapons.

The Defense Agency said the SDF Law and Japan-U.S. Security Treaty permit Japan's support of U.S. night-landing practices at Iwojima.

IAEA Confirms DPRK Fuel Rod Removal Under Way

OW2005005694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0010 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Vienna, May 20 KYODO—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed Friday [20 May] North Korea has already begun removing spent fuel rods from a 5-megawatt experimental nuclear reactor in Yongbyon, 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang.

The U.N. Nuclear Monitoring Agency said it has sent a letter to North Korea warning that the continued removal of the rods would be a violation of the nuclear safeguards agreement.

On Thursday, U.S. Government and diplomatic sources in Washington reported the three-member IAEA inspection team had determined that a small number of the estimated 8,000 fuel rods had already been removed from the reactor.

The IAEA and the United States fear that plutonium extracted from the rods may be diverted to a suspected nuclear arms development program.

The IAEA has said the future removal of the fuel rods without the agency's supervision and without marking and separating them would be in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

This would force the watchdog agency to refer the problem to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

Meanwhile, U.S. State Department sources said the IAEA team's checks of the monitoring cameras and seals at the radiochemical laboratory at the complex in Yongbyon are progressing smoothly and should be completed soon.

Another IAEA inspection team in March was denied access to the laboratory by the North Koreans, raising suspicions that Pyongyang is trying to build a nuclear bomb.

Akashi Says No 'Differences' Within Unprofor

OW2005120794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Yasushi Akashi, United Nations special representative to the former Yugoslavia, dismissed suggestions Friday [20 May] that there are differences of opinions within the U.N. Protection Force (Unprofor), Foreign Ministry officials said.

Akashi told Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa in a 10-minute telephone conversation he thinks it natural that there are criticisms against him, but that he wants to continue making his utmost efforts without being too sensitive about them, the officials said.

He also said he wants to value the neutrality of the U.N. in pursuing his job.

Akashi, who is currently in Zagreb, denied there are differences of opinions within the Unprofor and described it as a monolith, the officials said.

Kakizawa told Akashi that Japan highly values his work despite criticism from European countries and the United States, and his neutral stance despite conflicting interests among warring parties in Bosnia, they said.

He also said Japan plans to send a delegation to a U.N.-sponsored international meeting on reconstruction of Sarajevo, to be held next Tuesday and Wednesday in Vienna. Japan will look into possible cooperation.

The foreign minister was quoted as saying it is difficult for Japan to send personnel to Unprofor at present, but that the government wants to consider it on a mid- to long-term perspective.

Akashi said he still wants Japan to join the Unprofor-led peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia and called on the nation to consider it from a long-term perspective.

Akashi also called for Japanese support for Macedonia, saying that maintaining neutrality and independence of Macedonia and Albania are important, the officials said.

Coalition Defines Term 'Universal Security'

OW2005110394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The governing coalition Friday [20 May] sketched out an official view concerning the definition of a controversial phrase on

Japan's defense policy that has been under parliamentary fire from the opposition.

The wording "universal security" was inserted into a common policy platform document under an April 22 agreement by coalition parties as a prerequisite for launching the coalition government of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata.

The document of policy coordination commitments said the coalition "recognizes the fact that the Japanese Constitution adopts as its ideal universal security (to be guaranteed) by the United Nations, while it allows Japan to actively join U.N. activities for peace and maintain the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty."

The day's announcement defined the wording as "the whole framework of measures for maintaining peace and security to be taken by the United Nations."

It said the coalition decided to use the adjective "universal," as the perception of such measures for maintaining the security of a country "is taken as a matter of course by the whole international community."

The announcement also defined another disputed phrase, "collective security," the clarification of which has been demanded by opposition interpellators in House of Representatives sessions since May 11.

It defined collective security as "appropriate measures taken in solidarity by the international community, in order to restore peace, against a country or group which invades another or destroys or threatens peace."

It called attention to the U.N. Charter as the reference document that "stipulates concrete measures" for restoring peace.

Hata earlier told a Diet session that the perception of universal security is identical to that of collective security.

However, the announcement said Japan is under the constraints of its Constitution "when Japan participates in or cooperates with U.N. activities designed to restore peace and security."

Article 9 of the Constitution bars Japan from using military forces to resolve international disputes.

Government Joins Economic Embargo Against Haiti

*OW2005011694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0044 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan declared Friday [20 May] it will join an international economic embargo against Haiti to help oust its military government from power and restore civilian rule.

Japan will stop loans and investment to Haiti's military authorities in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 917, adopted on May 6, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The Japanese Government has already banned flights between Japan and Haiti except for regular passenger flights, and has also taken measures to prevent Haiti military leaders from entering Japan, under the U.N. sanctions, it said.

Tokyo will also abide by a trade embargo against the Caribbean state which takes effect at Saturday midnight, it said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada said in a statement that Japan strongly hopes leaders of the Haiti military will take immediate steps to restore democracy.

The Security Council unanimously voted on May 6 to tighten sanctions against Haiti's military rulers to force them to allow the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and restore democracy.

The resolution calls for banning entry of Haiti military leaders into all U.N. member countries, and embargoes exports to Haiti except for medical goods and food.

It also recommends U.N. member countries to ensure that the Haiti military and its leaders cannot use their funds and financial resources.

The Haiti Army ousted Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, in a coup in September 1991.

Trade Surplus Scores Fifth Straight Rise in Apr *OW2005085194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan's trade surplus posted a fifth consecutive year-on-year monthly increase in April as the politically sensitive surplus with the United States rose for the second month in a row, the Finance Ministry said Friday [20 May].

The increase came as informal U.S.-Japan trade talks resumed in Washington, and a ministry official stressed "the unchanged recent trend of declining exports and rising imports and declining overall yen-based surplus."

The overall customs-cleared merchandise trade surplus rose an unadjusted 8.1 percent to 11.12 billion dollars as the surplus with the U.S. rose 8.9 percent to 4.38 billion dollars, the ministry said.

In yen terms, however, the overall figure fell 1.6 percent to mark the third straight decline with the surplus with the U.S. dipping 0.9 percent after rising the previous month.

The official, briefing reporters, said the yen's rise is contributing to boosting imports and curbing export volume but has yet to be sufficiently passed along to prices due to the so-called J-curve effects of swelling dollar-term figures.

The dollar averaged 104.43 yen in April, down 10.0 percent from a year before.

April exports rose 7.1 percent from a year before to 32.89 billion dollars, and imports climbed 6.6 percent to 21.77 billion dollars—both gaining for 14 months in a row.

In yen terms, exports fell 2.7 percent for the 13th straight monthly decline, and imports dropped 3.2 percent for the 24th.

Referring to the index of trade growth, the official said export volume decreased for three consecutive months, and imports for 12 months.

Looking ahead, he expressed hopes for a dollar-based shrinkage from summer as the dollar had fallen to the 105-yen level in the period from June through August.

Many private economists agreed that the dollar-term surplus would move lower.

Nobuyuki Saji, senior economist at the Nikko Research Center, said, "the trend for lower surpluses in terms of volume and the yen is certainly fixed."

Some kind of an effect from the yen's rise last summer can be expected ahead, he said.

"But a sharp shrinkage is unlikely," Saji said, noting strong exports to recovering overseas markets, particularly of electronics products to the U.S.

In April, major export gainers were semiconductor and other electronics parts, up 31.8 percent, automobile parts, up 28.3 percent, and ships, up 62.4 percent.

For imports, semiconductor and other electronics parts rose 33.1 percent, clothing gained 19.3 percent and aircraft surged 140.0 percent.

The ministry official said that many special factors were seen in April to judge the overall trend, citing increased exports of huge tankers, higher imports of aircraft, and lower crude oil prices.

With crude prices falling 21.2 percent to 14.57 dollars per barrel, imports fell 20.4 percent in value while volume remained almost unchanged.

Among other countries, Japan's trade surplus with the European Union fell 11.6 percent to 2.32 billion dollars for the fourth straight decline, and the gap with other Asian nations rose 12.4 percent to 5.31 billion dollars for the 24th consecutive increase.

Reportage on Stopgap Supplemental Budget

Soka Gakkai Issue Stalls Session

OW1905143694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 19, KYODO—The House of Councillors Budget Committee failed Thursday [19 May] to discuss a stopgap supplementary budget for fiscal 1994 over an opposition demand to summon a former attorney to a Buddhist lay group linked to Komeito, a core party in the ruling coalition.

The main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) demanded that Masatomo Yamazaki, former attorney to Soka Gakkai, be summoned as an unsworn witness in connection with his alleged attempt to tap a telephone line at the House of Japanese Communist Party Chairman Kenji Miyamoto.

Soka Gakkai is the primary support base for Komeito and their ties have often become the focus of disputes over the separation of religion and politics stipulated in the Constitution.

The coalition urged the LDP to attend the committee session on Friday to deliberate the 10.89 trillion yen stopgap supplementary budget, which will extend for 40 days an original 50-day provisional budget worth 11.05 trillion yen that expires Friday.

The LDP, however, declined because the coalition rejected its demand, parliamentary sources said.

The more powerful House of Representatives approved the stopgap supplementary budget on Wednesday.

The rare supplement to a provisional budget, the first since fiscal 1990, followed the continued political turmoil involving the resignation of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and the selection as premier of Tsutomu Hata.

Diet deliberations for the 73.08 trillion yen full budget for the 1994 fiscal year finally started Tuesday.

Upper House Committee Debates

OW2005083294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0759 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The Budget Committee of the House of Councilors began discussions Friday [20 May] on supplementing the stalled stopgap budget after an agreement was reached over Diet testimony concerning a dispute involving Komeito.

The deliberations began after the ruling coalition and opposition parties agreed to accept Committee Chairman Kichio Inoue's compromise proposal to the Liberal Democratic Party's demand to summon a former lawyer for Soka Gakkai, a Buddhist sect that backs Komeito.

Both sides agreed to Inoue's proposal to start debate on the stopgap budget and then conclude the issue of Diet testimony by the time the upper house starts discussions on the full state budget for the current fiscal year, which began April 1.

The LDP is demanding that Masatomo Yamazaki, a former legal adviser to the Buddhist sect, testify before the committee over relations between Komeito and the politically active Buddhist organization.

The ruling coalition, which includes Komeito, is opposed to the demand.

In the committee session, Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, in response to questions by an LDP lawmaker on

a controversial news report, denied he brought a letter from Soka Gakkai head Daisaku Ikeda to the Pope during his recent European tour.

Hata said he believes that Komeito is independent of Soka Gakkai's religious teachings or activities.

Komeito is a key component of the minority coalition that backs the Hata administration.

Friday's agreement to discuss supplementation of the provisional budget came just before the stopgap budget was to expire Friday.

The Diet has yet to start debate on the full budget for the current fiscal year due to political turmoil over former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's shady financial dealings, which forced him to resign on April 8.

During the agenda-setting meeting for the committee, the LDP accused the coalition of "abnormal handling" of Diet business that caused the delay.

Upper House Passes Budget

OW2005105594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT
20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—An unusual supplement to an earlier stopgap budget nearing expiration cleared the last parliamentary hurdle to become a law Friday upon approval from the House of Councillors.

The plenary session of the upper house of the Japanese parliament passed the 10.89 trillion yen supplement to extend for 40 days an earlier 50-day provisional budget worth 11.05 trillion yen.

The revised stopgap budget, totaling 21.94 trillion yen, will expire June 29, when the current Diet session ends.

The rare revision of a stopgap budget—the first since fiscal 1990—was necessitated by the political confusion following the abrupt resignation of former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and the selection of Tsutomu Hata as his successor.

The political turmoil had long stalled Diet deliberations on the 73.08 trillion yen full budget for fiscal 1994, which started April 1, until Tuesday when budgetary debates finally began.

The chances for quick passage of the full budget, however, are viewed as slim because the Hata government holds only a minority in the Diet.

The revised interim budget earmarks as little as possible for the running of administrative bodies, while boosting outlays for public works projects.

Revised outlays for administrative expenses are set at 25 percent of the full budget, up from 14 percent in the initial stopgap budget.

Public works got an additional 1.07 trillion yen, bringing the total so far to 3.84 trillion yen, about three-sevenths of such investments envisaged under the full budget.

Finance Minister on Budget Approval, Tax Reform

OW2005050994 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 9 May 94

[Interview with Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii by NHK announcer Yoshiaki Kawabata; place and date not given; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] [Kawabata] The Hata administration is a minority government. Do you think that this will have some negative impact on approval of the fiscal 1994 budget? Also, do you think you can count on cooperation from the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], which seceded from the coalition government?

[Fujii] At the least, we worked together to form the budget. We had ministerial level discussions with former cabinet members of the SDPJ. I believe that they share the same views with us. Therefore, I will talk to them and do my best to ask for their cooperation.

[Kawabata] Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] President Yohei Kono said that passage of the budget modification should be carried out when necessary. What do you think about his statement?

[Fujii] The LDP is the largest opposition party, so, we should listen carefully to his comments. At the same time, we will explain the rationale behind the budget in more detail to increase their understanding.

[Kawabata] The provisional budget will expire next week. What do you think about the supplementary budget?

[Fujii] As of today, we want to have budget discussions in the Diet as soon as possible. However, in practice, I know we need to think about a supplementary budget because funds are needed immediately. In fact, the mechanism for a supplementary budget ends with the provisional budget. However, I am not in a position to announce the decision. We will see how the discussions will proceed before we make the final decision.

[Kawabata] Another major task for the administration is tax reform. Now that the SDPJ has gone, I wonder how the finance minister will cope with the issue. Have you changed your policies since the split with the SDPJ?

[Fujii] The basic policy remains unchanged from the previous cabinet. I think that the Tax System Research Council's recommendations are also unchanged. We need to think how we can financially support our future welfare society. Now we have a progressive tax system, which has already reached its limit when compared to other countries. At the moment, taxation is concentrated on income tax and salaried workers, in particular, shoulder the burden. Now, we need to have broader taxation of lower percentages. For instance, more consumption tax to increase revenues to support welfare. I believe this will benefit both tax payers and those who receive social services.

[Kawabata] How do you foster good public understanding on such matters?

[Fujii] Of course, such matters require the consensus of the people and agreement in parliament. This is the most important point. Therefore, we need to publicize and promote the concept at the same time. When I was deputy finance minister 13 years ago, we launched a nationwide treasury campaign. We need to talk to financial business people as well as to explain the concept to the public.

[Kawabata] What about the review of the consumption tax?

[Fujii] This issue has been taken up in the Tax System Research Council for discussions. Many people are discussing the possibility of reviewing the system. A simplified tax system, duty free shops, tax exemption limits, and other matters need to be reviewed. The final decision should be made based on that review. Anyway, discussions ought to take place.

[Kawabata] Do you think it will be possible for the tax reform bills to be passed during the current Diet session?

[Fujii] The government's tax reform platform says that the reform should be implemented by the end of this year. The governing coalition agreed to make the final decision in June. That schedule has not been changed. The cabinet decided to carry out tax reform this year. I cannot say about ongoing discussions among the political parties. But, I understand that they have a schedule in their minds as well.

[Kawabata] You think it is essential for the tax reform bills to pass parliament in June. But, is this possible?

[Fujii] The coalition continues its discussions to meet that timeframe. The Finance Ministry is also doing all it can to conform to the schedule.

Reports Concerning Public Utility Rate Continue

Cabinet Endorses Rate Hike Freeze

OW2005012594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0040 GMT
20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's Cabinet endorsed Friday [20 May] a decision to freeze hikes in public service charges until the end of the year, officials said.

The decision comes after a barrage of public criticism over recent rate hike plans in the midst of a sluggish economy.

Officials said the cabinet decision is intended to stem the rate increases in domestic telephone charges, rent for public housing, taxi fares, expressway tolls and fire insurance premiums.

The cabinet will ask local autonomous bodies not to raise fees charged for their bus and subway services, they said.

On Tuesday, Hata instructed chief cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai and Economic Planning Agency Director General Yoshio Terasawa to move quickly in putting a freeze on public utility rates. Many political analysts said the freeze is Hata's apparent bid to rally public support for his minority government in the face of attacks from the opposition on his weak political standing.

Cabinet Gives Official Approval

OW2005055094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT
20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's Cabinet on Friday [20 May] gave the official go-ahead to the premier's proposed freeze of public service charges until the end of the year.

The cabinet endorsed Hata's call for halting all planned hikes on domestic phone charges, public housing rents, taxi fares, expressway tolls and fire insurance premiums.

The government also requested local governments to follow suit, asking them not to raise charges on their services such as public-sector buses and subways, and water supply.

It is the first freeze of public charges since 1974, and the first such sweeping one since 1964.

Hata's "political decision" came on Wednesday in response to a torrent of criticism from the public and business circles that governmental organizations are too willing to raise charges while the private sector is forced to make cuts to cope with the worst recession in the postwar period.

The step, generally welcomed by businesses and consumers, was described by political analysts as an attempt to win public support for his precariously positioned minority government.

Hata's announcement also came as "a bolt out of the blue" for most bureaucrats who supervise public-sector organizations' charges.

Some top government officials made clear they are irked by the decision, which was taken without consulting them.

One such official said, "ministries are all opposed to the measure. That's why it was a political decision. But they will follow their bosses' decision."

Cabinet members lauded the move and insisted that the margin of increases will not be raised when the freeze ends.

"The significance of the step lies in its being a sweeping one. It is our political decision," said Economic Planning Agency Director General Yoshio Terasawa.

"We need to boost consumer confidence to lift the economy," he told a press conference.

Transport Minister Nobuaki Futami said at a separate press conference that his ministry will not allow larger hikes in expressway tolls or taxi fares because of the freeze than those already applied for.

Futami also said he will take account of the economic conditions in considering the timing of lifting the cap on charges, suggesting a possibility of extending the freeze beyond the end of the year.

Construction Minister Koji Morimoto, however, said he regards the measure as applying only for this year.

"I am not thinking about (a freeze) of one or two years beyond the year-end," he said.

Some cabinet members called for a review of the way expressway tolls are determined.

During unofficial talks after the cabinet meeting, Futami said the basic problems concerning the method of calculating highway tolls should be reconsidered by the year-end.

He reportedly argued that the principal problem is that the depreciation costs for the land are reflected in the tolls.

Morimoto admitted at the press conference the need for reviewing the calculation method, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the construction plans for expressways.

Highways are built by public corporations with borrowed money which they pay back with the revenue from tolls.

Fujii Rejects Bureaucrats' Opposition

*OW2005032794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—A political decision to freeze planned hikes in public service charges must be followed, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday [20 May], brushing off opposition by bureaucrats.

Fujii said he highly evaluated the "political decision by Prime Minister (Tsutomu) Hata," and the ministry will review requested hikes in nonlife insurance premiums in line with the freeze, Fujii told a news conference after a morning cabinet meeting. His comments came after Finance Ministry bureaucrats led by Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito criticized the premier's decision.

Saito told reporters Thursday that he was dissatisfied with the decision to freeze all applied-for hikes in public service charges, including highway tolls, taxi fares and telephone rates. Saito's remarks made headlines in many newspapers, with one daily calling it a "coup" bid by bureaucrats.

Fujii said he has not heard of such comments. "I understand that the vice minister just said that we must follow cabinet decisions."

The plan announced Wednesday to freeze hikes this year was endorsed at the morning cabinet meeting. Hikes applied for in government-controlled charges include telephone fees, public housing rents, highway tolls, and fire and marine insurance premiums.

As for requested increases in nonlife insurance premiums which the finance minister controls, Saito said the minister would review applications to see whether the freeze is possible. But if found difficult, he suggested the ministry would seek exemption.

Fujii said, "we must go over to promote streamlining" of nonlife insurance firms.

Saito said the requests for premium hikes were made to "maintain a sound insurance system." Casualty insurance firms were in a pinch because of increased payouts on disaster and other cases, he said.

In their separate statements, Fujii and Saito shared the view that the freeze is not related to the coming tax reform, in contrast with the prime minister's comments on such a link.

After making his decision on the rate hike freeze, Hata said it would pave the way for winning public support on tax increases to offset income tax cuts.

Concerning the possibility of even greater hikes in public service charges after the freeze ends, both Fujii and Saito said that streamlining is necessary to avoid placing such a burden on consumers. But Fujii welcomed the decision taken at a time when the economy "is in a crucial stage" with both good and bad signs.

"We must now steadily implement the February stimulus package and the fiscal 1994 budget" to spread the recent improvements, Fujii said, noting that long-delayed Diet deliberations on the budget are set to begin.

"If the economy starts picking up and enters a stable growth phase, later fee hikes will be absorbed eventually," he added.

Transport Minister Denies Future Hike

*OW2005044394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Transport Minister Nobuaki Futami denied Friday [20 May] that transportation charges will be raised sharply next January after the freeze on hikes in public charges this year comes to an end.

"The ministry won't be adding anything extra onto the rises that were withheld this year," Futami said, dismissing speculation that expressway tolls and taxi fares could jump when the freeze ends.

He said the hikes could be delayed from the planned Jan. 1 for political reasons, and that there could be another freeze if the economy still looks bad at that time.

"A lifting of the freeze depends on an economic recovery. If the situation looks serious, we will be giving the matter further consideration," he said.

The minister expressed caution toward exempting the fares of small regional taxi companies from the hike freeze this year.

"People could be put off from using taxis, (if such companies are allowed to raise their fares)," he said.

Minister Reviews Utility Rate Fixing

OW2005041194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0325 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Eijiro Hata on Friday [20 May] called for an overall review of the methods for setting public service charges, particularly highway tolls.

The proposal was made in connection with the government's latest decision to uniformly freeze proposed hikes in public service rates until the end of the year in easing the burdens on a recession-hit private sector.

Speaking to reporters, Hata said many cabinet ministers agreed earlier in the day on the need for a "thorough and drastic review" of the current rate-fixing system.

Hata especially criticized "a pool system" used to calculate highway tolls as a mechanism that always works toward a rate hike.

He cited the use of the government's fiscal investment and loan fund as one option in replacing the pool system in which funds collected by drivers finance new highway construction.

The government announced Wednesday it will suspend rates for services such as telephones, rents on government-owned houses and public transportation. The plan was approved by Friday's cabinet meeting.

On utility charges, Hata said the issue should be separated from charges subject to the latest rate hike freeze. Rates on gas and electricity were cut last November as part of efforts to pass on to consumers the companies' windfall profits from the yen's appreciation against the dollar. The companies said the cuts would be effective until the end of September this year.

What to do after September is a matter to be handled by the industries concerned after taking into account various economic factors like crude oil prices and exchange rates, Hata said.

On the growing difficulty of female college graduates to find jobs, with many companies refusing to hire women, citing the recession, the trade minister said he will ask the business community to "refrain from hesitating" to recruit such students. The tendency, if covered by the overseas media, would undermine the reputation of Japanese corporations, Hata said. He said he will make the request when he meets leaders of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) next Tuesday.

Turning to the ongoing Japan-U.S. informal trade talks in Washington, Hata said he has yet to receive any information about the meeting. The two countries began subcabinet-level talks Thursday in a bid to find common ground for resuming the stalled negotiations on a new bilateral trade framework.

EPA Director Cited

OW2005024394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0222 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The government's freeze on public service charge hikes was "politically necessary," economic planning chief Yoshio Terasawa said Friday [20 May], but he expressed concern about the move's across-the-board nature.

Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata had to order the freeze to bolster consumer psychology and help the economy, the director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) told a regular press conference after a morning cabinet endorsed the freeze.

"I think the very fact that it is across-the-board is meaningful" for beleaguered consumers, Terasawa said. But he said he wants to "respect" the EPA's position that hikes in public service charges should be decided case by case.

He said the move will have little effect on overall prices, which are quite stable in Japan's still-sluggish economy, noting that the EPA wants some prices to fall, to reduce disparities with overseas prices. But he said the freeze "avoids the negative effect" of more increases.

In his abrupt decision Wednesday, Hata said the government must show the people it is taking the same bitter cost-cutting medicine as private enterprises in their restructuring efforts. But the move to freeze for the rest of the year a vast array of rate hikes needing government approval, and a request to local governments to do the same, angered Japan's bureaucracy. Public opposition by Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito was labeled a bureaucratic "coup d'etat" by one newspaper Friday.

Some cabinet members called at the morning's meeting for a drastic overhaul of the system for setting public service charges, such as highway tolls, utility rates and transportation fares, Terasawa said.

Minister Seeks System Reform

OW2005025594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0241 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Agriculture Minister Mutsuki Kato called Friday [20 May] for an overhaul of the present system of calculation for public service rates.

Kato made the remark after Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's government endorsed a freeze on public service charges until the end of the year.

It is necessary to make a thorough review of the calculation system rather than merely postpone rate hikes, he said.

Hata Likely To Choose Resignation En Masse
*OW2005090294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Sendai, May 20 KYODO—Opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono said Friday that Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata is likely to choose a cabinet resignation en masse if a no-confidence motion is adopted.

Kono told a press conference he thinks Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Tomiichi Murayama's call for dissolving the Diet through dialogue is intended to keep political reform alive.

In a meeting with Hata in Tokyo on Tuesday, Kono indicated that the LDP would submit a no-confidence motion against the cabinet after the Diet enacts the fiscal 1994 national budget.

Kono told a press conference that Hata "is likely to select resignation en masse under the circumstance generally envisaged," rather than call a snap election of the House of Representatives.

Kono said, "it is necessary to do away with the weak minority government."

"People can see what (Hata's) cabinet is like in deliberations on the fiscal 1994 state budget starting next week," Kono said.

The LDP will question the cabinet's policy at the lower house budget committee, assessing the timing for submitting the motion in a way that the people can support, he said.

Shinseito Member Removed After Criticizing Ozawa
*OW1905124694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT
19 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 19 KYODO—A director of a key committee in the House of Representatives from Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], a core party in the ruling coalition, was removed from the post after criticizing his boss, Ichiro Ozawa, party officials said Thursday [19 May].

Koichiro Aino was replaced by Morio Kimura, another Shinseito member, as a director of the lower house steering committee, the officials said.

A senior party official said the change is a regular one. But the sudden change is widely regarded as punishment for Aino, who described the formation of a joint parliament group in the lower house which triggered the withdrawal of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) from the coalition as a blunder by Ozawa.

Aino's remarks angered Ozawa, the chief coalition strategist, and he later retracted them.

The SDP walked out of the coalition in late April after the abrupt formation of the Kaishin parliamentary group, excluding the party. The SDP's withdrawal meant Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata had to form a minority government for the first time in 39 years.

Four Lower House Members Defect From JNP
*OW2005091894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Four House of Representatives members on Friday [20 May] defected from former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's Japan New Party [JNP] due to differences with the party leadership.

They are Satoshi Arai, Yukio Edano, Yuichi Takami and Seiji Maehara, all of whom were elected to the lower house for the first time on the JNP ticket in last July's general election.

"It was tough and painful to part from our colleagues... We will continue doing our utmost to revamp Japan's politics," Arai said at a news conference.

The four will form a new parliamentary group and seek a tie-up with the 18-member parliamentary group of new party Sakigake [Harbinger]/Seiun and new party Mirai.

They said their reason for quitting the two-year-old party rested in the formation of a new parliamentary group, Kaishin, in late April.

Kaishin was abruptly established by ruling coalition parties, excluding the Social Democratic Party (SDP), a move that led to the SDP's withdrawal from the coalition and forced Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata to form the first minority government in 39 years.

The lawmakers also noted they want to pursue a management style that differs from the JNP's, though they share political goals.

Edano said he shares political ideals with a number of JNP members and hopes he can join forces with them in the future.

On Thursday, Edano and Takami revealed they would quit the JNP, and Arai and Maehara decided to follow suit on Friday.

Last month, three JNP members left the party after Hosokawa and his party leadership formed closer ties with key coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the coalition's core party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party]. The three defectors established the Seiun group.

With the latest breakaway, the JNP's strength in the lower house is pared down to 33.

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai told a news conference the defection from the JNP—a move that also reduces the strength of the ruling coalition—is regrettable.

But the top government spokesman also declared the governing forces will stay united and march forward despite the departure.

Watanabe on Postponing Redistricting Effort

*OW2005081794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Fukuoka, May 20 KYODO—A senior member of the coalition government's core party said Friday [20 May] it is possible to postpone enacting a bill on redistricting single-seat constituencies until an extraordinary Diet session in autumn.

Kozo Watanabe, acting secretary general of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], said at a speech in Fukuoka that the postponement is possible if the ruling and opposition parties agree to discuss the matter.

Prosecutors Demand Jail Term for Ex-Politician

*OW2005083394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Prosecutors demanded Friday [20 May] former Chief Cabinet Secretary Takao Fujinami be sentenced to three and half years in prison for allegedly taking bribes in a shares-for-favor scandal involving Tokyo-based job information firm Recruit Co.

The Tokyo District Court is expected to hand down a ruling by the end of the year after Fujinami, 61, and his lawyers deliver their final submissions July 14, court officials said.

He is the first suspect from within the political circle to face a ruling in the series of Recruit scandals that jolted Japanese politics in the late 1980s.

Fujinami was charged with receiving 10,000 unlisted shares and 20 million yen in checks from Recruit in exchange for political favors.

Keidanren Head Hiraiwa Holds Last News Conference

*OW1905124794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT
19 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 19 KYODO—The outgoing chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) said Thursday [19 May] he feels he has finished playing a major role in the Japanese business community.

Gaishi Hiraiwa made the remark at his last news conference as chief of Japan's top business lobby.

He will be replaced by Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of Toyota Motor Corp., as Keidanren chief when he retires from his post in a general meeting of the organization on May 27.

Hiraiwa, who is also adviser to Tokyo Electric Power Co., was appointed as Keidanren chairman in December 1990.

During his three-and-a-half-year term, he faced various problems resulting from political turmoil and a prolonged recession.

Former Vice Finance Minister To Head Corporation

*OW2005054294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan's previous vice finance minister, Mamoru Ozaki, was appointed Friday [20 May] by Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii to head People's Finance Corp., replacing Sadaaki Hirasawa.

Hirasawa, also a former vice finance minister, is widely expected to become president of the Bank of Yokohama in June.

People's Finance Corp. is a government-run firm that provides low-interest loans to small businesses.

A rash of such high-profile appointments recently has raised anew the issue of "amakudari," the "descent from heaven" of ranking bureaucrats to influential private-sector positions.

BOJ Head Mieno Says Economy in 'Delicate Stage'

*OW2005093194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT
20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno on Friday [20 May] repeated his earlier view that the Japanese economy is in a delicate stage.

The central bank chief told the Budget Committee of the House of Councilors that the Japanese economy has been showing some signs of firmness since the beginning of the year, especially related to consumer spending.

However, he said, "there is a need to closely watch whether these signs can be sustained and spread to other sectors."

Mieno said the current state of the economy is different from a similar state the economy was in spring last year in that inventory cuts and restructuring have been more pronounced this time around.

He said that dampening factors remain, however, such as the still unhealthy balance sheets of financial institutions.

Mieno was responding to questions by Kiyoharu Ishiwata, a member of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

BOJ Sees No 'Clear' Signs of Impending Recovery

OW2005111394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The economy has yet to show that it is about to recover but the long economic slump is not worsening, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said Friday [20 May].

"Japan's economic growth appears to have stopped weakening," the BOJ said in its monthly economic review, using almost the same words as a month ago. "However, there are no clear indications of imminent recovery."

Personal consumption, a main engine of growth, "is picking up gradually," while housing and public-sector investment are strong, but corporate capital spending is still falling, the report says.

Job growth remains slow, the central bank said, but it noted a halt to the falling ratio of job offers to seekers.

Money supply growth remains low due to weak lending by banks, the report asserts, saying rises in March and April to the top of the BOJ's forecast range resulted from "portfolio shifts between money and other financial assets" not counted in the money supply.

On inflation, it says domestic wholesale prices are falling on weak demand and cheaper imports, service prices are stable and consumer price increases remain low.

Industrial production "has virtually stopped decreasing," the central bank said, although it noted that the trade ministry expects declines in April and May in the wake of stepped-up spending before the end of the fiscal year.

Capital spending continues to fall among manufacturers—except for such bright spots as semiconductors, liquid crystal displays and cellular telephones—and is stagnant among nonmanufacturers, the report says.

It notes recent rises in Japan's trade surplus but says the current-account surplus "has peaked" due to "larger deficits in invisible and transfer accounts."

Industrial Production Increases 4.6% in Mar

OW2005064394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0631 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan's industrial production in March increased 4.6 percent from the preceding month, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said in a revised report Friday [20 May].

The seasonally adjusted production index for the mining and manufacturing sectors came to 92.7 against a base of

100 for 1990. The growth compares with a 3.3 percent rise in a preliminary report released in late February, MITI said.

The shipment index, given as 95.3, increased 4.8 percent from February, revised upward from a 3.9 percent rise in the preliminary report.

The inventory index, at 105.4, fell 1.1 percent against a preliminary 0.8 percent drop.

The index of the inventory-to-sales ratio, at 112.7, declined 5.3 percent compared with a 4.5 percent fall in the earlier report.

With the latest statistics, Japan's industrial output has scored ups and downs alternately in the past eight months. Before adjustments, March industrial production decreased a revised 2.1 percent from a year earlier, extending a record string of year-to-year declines to 30 months. Unadjusted shipments fell a revised 2.6 percent from a year before and unadjusted inventories a revised 3.4 percent.

Released Annual Earnings Indicate Recession

OW2005015894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0109 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Japan's annual corporate earnings season set in Friday [20 May], with the number of companies releasing their earnings for the latest business year ended March 31 peaking at around 250.

The companies make up about 20 percent of Japanese companies closing their books on March 31.

The so-called Kabutocho Press Club within the Tokyo Stock Exchange was packed like a morning commuter train with reporters and corporate financial officers for earnings announcements.

The effects of the prolonged recession were reflected in the results, with many companies reporting, "sales went down because of the recession," or "the high yen cut into profits."

Until now, some 350 companies have announced their results for their latest business year, showing a decline of some 6 percent in combined sales and a fall of some 14 percent in combined pretax profits from year-earlier levels.

"If steel and auto companies which announce their results next week are added up, pretax profits will go down further, probably by more than 20 percent," an economist at a private think tank said.

Mongolia

Foreign Ministry Protests Mistreatment of Diplomat

LD1705083294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Ulaanbaatar May 17 ITAR-TASS—The Mongolian Foreign Ministry has delivered a note of protest to the Russian envoy to Mongolia in connection with the assault on, and robbery of Mongolian Vice-Consul in Buriatiya Batsuur and several persons who accompanied him near the Ubienny mountain pass near the town of Gusinoozersk on May 11.

According to the note, the Mongols were robbed of cash, valuables and official documents. Batsuur suffered serious injuries, despite the fact that he had identified himself as a consular employee.

The Mongolian Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that the criminals who violated the Mongolian consular employee's diplomatic immunity will be identified and brought to account, the press-service of the Mongolian Foreign Ministry said.

MONTSAME Carries 18 May Press Review

BK1905013394 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 0953 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, May 18 (OANA-MONTSAME)—The newspaper "ARDIYN ERH" informs that the president of Mongolia P. Ochirbat has sent a telegram of congratulations addressing King Harald of Norway. It is reported that the deputy minister of external relations of Mongolia J. Choinhor [name as received] was staying lately in the Republic of Philippines on a visit as a confidential envoy of the Mongolian president. During the visit J. Choinhor met with the president of Philippines F. Ramos and handed him in a message by the President P. Ochirbat. Two papers concerning the relations between Mongolia and Philippines were signed.

The Mongolian press continues covering widely the course of the spring session of the Great State Hural. According to the "ARDIYN ERH", the members of the Mongolian parliament go on discussing the issues concerning the conceptions of national security, foreign policy and military doctrine of Mongolia.

The newspaper publishes an interview of its correspondent with an officer of the Ministry of Demographical Policies and Labour of Mongolia T. Tsembe [name as received]. Devoted mainly to the outcome of the trilateral negotiations held between the Mongolian Government, the private enterprise owners association and trade unions. [sentence as received] According to T. Tsembe, the participants to the talks focused their attention on the recovering of the national production, stabilizing the economy of the country and safeguarding the social insurance for the population under the conditions of transition to a market.

Under its permanent heading "From Dawn to Dusk" the central official newspaper reports about the latest developments in the socio-economic life of the country notably the newspaper informs that there has been created a service for copyright intended to ensure the guarantees of intellectual labour. A registration of intellectual labour and issuing of proper licences are being started here. The copyright certificate No. 1 was conferred to L. Murdorj, a well known Mongolian composer, people's artist and State Prize winner of Mongolia, it said.

One of the columns of the newspaper is fully devoted to the materials referring to the International Labour Organization (ILO), its cooperation with Mongolia on the occasion of the 75th anniversary since this authoritative international establishments came into existence.

The cooperation of Mongolia with this establishment has been widening and increasing for the last three years, notes in his article published in the newspaper the minister of demographical policies and labour of Mongolia E. Gombojab. Last year our country together with the ILO organized a national symposium on the theme "Labour Employment and Man Power". The first stage of the project for better social insurance worked out with the participation of the ILO is successfully accomplished, the Mongolian minister underlined.

The newspaper "UNEN" being an organ of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) informs about the inner party life and continuing nearly 14-days strike of workers of the Mongolian-British joint venture Temuujin Mench.

The newspaper carries an article by a young journalist Sh. Tserenpil [name as received] in which the author provides an analysis of the recent aggravation of the political situation in Mongolia arising in connection with the hunger strike by activists of the Mongolian Democratic Union and the Union of Mongolian Students urging the resignation of the government by P. Jasray.

The newspaper "ERH CHOLOO" (FREEDOM) issued by the Mongolian National Democratic Party (MNDP) provides the information that a group of members of this party decided to withdraw from the membership of the party and restore the Mongolian Democratic Party. The newspaper also gives the results of the public opinion poll conducted by the Press-Office of the MNDP. Answering the question how they assessed the recent political hunger strike organized by the Mongolian Democratic Union and the Union of Mongolian Students some 56.9 percent of surveyed said that the forms of struggle chosen that time were wrong though the demands right. 24.2 percent of the respondents considered the hunger strike to be the correct step.

Press Review for 19 May

*BK2005105494 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English
1142 GMT 19 May 94*

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, May 19 (OANA-MONTSAME)—The newspaper "ARDIYN ERH" provides the statement by the Prime Minister P. Jasray calling upon all the citizens of Mongolia. Addressing the public the head of the government informs about the state of the socio-economic situation in the country and the policy by the government. He dwells upon the issues concerning the political situation in the country. This is his first appeal to the public after the political hunger strike arranged in April by the Mongolian Democratic Union and the Union of Mongolian Students.

The statement says that the Cabinet of Ministers thoroughly considered the April events, the factors promoting its development and made proper conclusions. The political parties should heed this lesson and draw corresponding conclusions. The Mongolians have chosen a system of political democracy and free economy. Everybody understands that we are not to give up our choice and there is not any other way out. But the past events has shown that there is a lack of culture in the sphere of democracy referring to both us and those who calls themselves "democrats". The political stability is the major precondition for checking the economic recession and creating proper foundations for the further development of the economy of the country, it said.

The newspaper informs that the work on working out the general scheme for the development of motor ways in Mongolia is being concluded. The general scheme envisages for particularly construction of asphalted motor ways in the directions from Darhan to Erdenet, from Ulaanbaatar through Choir to Sainshand, from Ulaanbaatar to Baganuur.

The newspaper also carries an article by a journalist I. Renchinhand devoted to the activities of the parliament describing the participation of the members of the parliament in the day-to-day sittings of the session of the Great State Hural.

The central official organ gives materials relating to the foreign workers working here under the labour contracts and an interview granted to its correspondent by the head of the Gandantegchinlen Monastery Hamba Lama D. Chojamts. According to him, at present there are over 120 monasteries functioning permanently where there are employed about two thousand lamas.

The trade union newspaper "HODOLMOR" carries the information concerning the strike by workers of the Mongolian-British joint Company "Temuujinmench" who demand to improve the labour conditions at the enterprise and wage raise.

The newspaper publishes an article by the president of the Federation of Mongolian Trade Unions G. Adiya referring to the financial and monetary policies and social welfare of the population. This issue is of great

importance for establishing a proper system of social welfare which meets the needs and interests of the population under the conditions of market, the author noted.

The article says that for the last four years the gross national revenue has fallen by 50 per cent while the prices and tariffs risen as much as 21 times since the January month of 1991. However the salary and wage of those employed in the budgetary organizations has been growing merely on an average three fold as against the above mentioned growth in the prices and tariffs.

The newspaper also provides materials touching upon the issues regarding the possibilities for application of hydropower in the western aimaks of Mongolia and the privatization of houses. The newspaper "BODLYN SOLBITSOL" publishes a number of materials covering the April event—the hunger strike by the activists of the Mongolian Democratic Union and the Union of Mongolian Students urging the resignation of the incumbent government. The newspaper gives an article by a journalist J. Purev about the commercial banks. The article notes that there are about 15 commercial banks functioning of today in the country.

The newspaper also acquaints its readership with a number of first ladies of foreign countries among them are Hilary Clinton, Souha Tauil 'Arafat (spouse of Yasir 'Arafat) Queen of Japan Michiko and Nayna Yeltsyna.

North Korea

President Kim Il-song Discusses Nuclear Issue

*SK1905233594 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 19 May 94*

["Full Text" of interview with Kim Il-song by the president of Cuba's PRENSA LATINA on 13 April—read by announcer]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has answered questions raised by the president of Cuba's PRENSA LATINA on 13 April 1994. The full text of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's answers were carried by the Cuban publication. The full text of his answers reads as follows:

[Kim Il-song] I appreciate your congratulations on my birthday and welcome your visit to our country. Hoping you will achieve a new success in your just communication and information business, I will answer your questions.

[PRENSA LATINA] The United States and the South Korean authorities are straining the situation by insisting that the DPRK has nuclear facilities to produce nuclear weapons. What is your country's position regarding this?

[Kim] We built nuclear facilities with our own strength and technology to further strengthen the country's energy base. Our nuclear activities are every inch

peaceful. We have reiterated on many occasions that we have neither the will nor the ability to develop nuclear weapons. We do not need to develop nuclear weapons and, even if we make one or two nuclear weapons, they are of no use [solsa handugaeui haengmugirul mandundaeya kugos'in amu soyongdo opsumnida]. The Government of our Republic has invariably made efforts to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula originated from the United States' bringing of nuclear weapons into South Korea. The United States occupied South Korea, a strategic point, and brought large-scale nuclear weapons into South Korea to realize its aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy opposing our Republic.

Under the condition created in recent years, in which the Cold War ended internationally and North and South Korea adopted an agreement on nonaggression and the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the United States has lost the justification for retaining nuclear weapons and its aggression army in South Korea. Since then, the United States has tried to find a ruse to keep occupying South Korea and has deliberately strained the situation on the Korean peninsula by crying over the fictitious nuclear suspicion on us aimed at crushing [apsal] our Republic.

The South Korean authorities are also frenzied in the new war provocation maneuver, following the U.S. nuclear commotion.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must be resolved through dialogue between us and the United States since it originated in the hostile U.S. policy against Korea. The United States also recognized [injong] that the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula should be settled by the DPRK and the United States, and acceded to DPRK-U.S. talks last year.

The joint statement that the DPRK and the United States announced at the talks after reaching an agreement clearly stipulates that the United States should not pose nuclear threats against us, that both countries should respect each other's sovereignty and should not interfere in domestic affairs, and that they support the peaceful reunification of Korea. The United States, however, is persistently adhering to the anti-Republic maneuver even after the announcement of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement.

The United States has driven the situation of our country to an extreme one [kuktanuro moragago issumyo] by overturning the agreement with us and rupturing DPRK-U.S. talks, and is maneuvering to pressure us by even mobilizing international organizations. Pressure cannot be a method to resolve the issue.

If one thinks that one can bring our people, who regard sovereignty as their life, to one's knee with pressure and strong-arm tactics, it is a miscalculation.

If the United States continues adhering to commotions of pressure against our Republic, we cannot but take due defensive steps in order to defend the nation's dignity and sovereignty.

It is our consistent position to resolve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula through dialogue. If the United States sincerely wants to resolve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, it should discard the international anti-Republic pressure commotions and come to DPRK-U.S. talks with a sincere attitude.

Whether the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula can be resolved peacefully or not totally depends on the U.S. attitude. Besides, international organizations should not follow the unjust demands of big nations but should do what is helpful to a solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula by keeping the principle of justice and fairness.

[PRENSA LATINA] What are the bases of the foreign policies of the DPRK and how are its relations with neighboring countries, including China, developing?

[Kim] The foreign policy of our Republic is based on the ideal of independence, peace, and friendship. The ideal of independence, peace, and friendship is a just ideal reflecting the common aspirations and desire of our people and the progressive people of the world to build a new, independent, peaceful, and friendly world against various dominations and subjugations.

Based on this ideal, the government of our Republic is actively making efforts to develop friendship and cooperative relations with socialist countries and nonaligned countries. It concluded good neighbor relations with capitalist countries that respect our nation's sovereignty, and is developing economic and cultural exchanges with these countries.

In particular, the government of our Republic pays deep attention to developing relations with our neighboring countries in a good manner.

The relations between nations cannot develop in a good manner with the effort of only one side. Among our neighboring countries, there are nations that have good relations with our country while others do not.

The relations between our country and China are good. The two countries of DPRK and China are neighbors with a river in between, and the Korean and Chinese people are close and friendly [chingunhan] comrades-in-arms and brothers who are struggling for a common cause.

The people of the DPRK and China have fought firmly hand-in-hand and by shedding blood against the imperialists. They supported and closely cooperated with each other in the struggle for socialism.

The traditional DPRK-PRC friendship is continually developing in all domains—political, economic and cultural—thanks to joint efforts of the parties, governments and peoples of the two countries.

Japan is also our neighboring country. However, normal relations have not been achieved between the DPRK and Japan. The Japanese Government implemented hostile policies against our country in the past. Recently it is disturbing a solution to the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula by taking part in the United States' anti-Republic maneuvers, and is attempting to pursue its insidious political and military purposes.

If the situation on the Korean peninsula is aggravated and an unexpected state [puluiui satae] is formed, it will not be good for Japan, either.

The Japanese Government should look at the reality and act with discretion.

[PRENSA LATINA] As a socialist country, what policy is the DPRK adopting concerning foreign countries' investment in its territory?

[Kim] It is the consistent policy of our Republic's government to expand and develop economic and technological exchanges with various world countries on the basis of building a self-reliant national economy. In accordance with the further development of our self-reliant socialist economy on the basis of modern technology, our foreign economic relations, too, will expand and develop in various forms such as joint ventures and collaboration as well as trade. This is of help to our economic building, and is also compatible with the progressing tendency of international economic cooperation.

We have enacted and promulgated relevant laws, including the Foreigners Investment Law, with a view to encouraging foreign investors to make investments within the boundary [yongyok] of the Republic, protecting their investments, and to guaranteeing their legitimate rights and interests on the basis of complete equality and reciprocity.

As is already widely known, we have proclaimed the Najin-Sonbong District a free economic trade zone, and have been providing a more favorable environment and conditions for foreign investments in this zone. Because of its vast economic potential and favorable natural, geographical conditions, the Najin-Sonbong free economic trade zone, which is located on the border area of Korea, China, and Russia, is attracting great interest from foreign investors, and there are many countries hoping to invest in this zone.

If foreign investors make investments in the Najin-Sonbong Free Economic Trade Zone, this will greatly contribute to expanding and developing the regional economic cooperation and the economic and technological exchanges among various world countries.

The government of our Republic is always opening doors of investment to foreign investors.

[PRENSA LATINA] What do you think of the prospect for Korea's reunification?

[Kim] The division of our nation imposed by outside forces has been continuing for nearly half a century. It is the supreme task of the nation—which cannot be put off even for a moment—to end the tragedy of the national division and realize the reunification of the fatherland.

Our party and the government of the Republic are making all efforts to realize by all means [ottokehana] the historic cause of the reunification of the fatherland in the nineties. We put forth the 10-point program for the grand unity of the whole nation for the fatherland's reunification last year. The 10-point program for the grand unity of the whole nation reflects the unanimous desire of all Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and abroad who wish to realize the nation's reunification and prosperity by firmly uniting as one while transcending the differences in ideologies, ideas, and systems.

We have hoped that the people in the South Korean authority come out on the path to reconciliation and cooperation by responding to our 10-point program for the grand unity of the whole nation. This notwithstanding, turning their face away from the whole nation's desire for reunification, they have been traversing the road to dependence on outside forces and to confrontation between the North and South.

The present regime in South Korea is a flunkeyist, nation-selling one which is following the outside forces in a thorough way. Due to the maneuvers of opposing reunification and provoking a new war by the people in authority in South Korea, there lay a grave obstacle and difficulties on the road before our people aspiring to the fatherland's reunification. But, we are optimistic about the prospect of the fatherland's reunification.

Our nation is a homogeneous one with a long history of 5,000 years. No force can divide our nation into two forever. The fatherland's reunification is a unanimous wish and a vital demand of the whole nation. Those running counter to this are only a tiny fraction of the flunkyist, nation-selling force.

It is inevitable for a nation, which has artificially been divided by outside forces, to be reunified into one. The forces aspiring for reunification will surely overwhelm and be victorious over the splittist forces.

We have already put forth the most reasonable method for the fatherland's reunification, too. The method for the fatherland's reunification in the form of a confederal system based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments—we have put forth—is a just and realistic way for reunification which can help realize the country's reunification in an above-board manner, in an independent and peaceful way, and in the quickest fashion,—while one neither swallows up, nor is swallowed up [mokgona mokiujianko] by another—under the circumstances in which different ideologies and systems exist in the North and South of Korea.

The formula for fatherland reunification based on a confederal system foresees our country developing into a

neutral state without becoming a satellite state of another country or joining in any political and military alliance or bloc after our fatherland is reunified. For this reason, this complies with the earnest desire of our neighboring countries and the peace-loving countries of the world.

As long as all fellow countrymen unanimously yearn for the reunification of the fatherland and as long as we have the most fair and aboveboard and realistic proposal for fatherland reunification, the historic cause of the fatherland's reunification will be achieved without fail.

At this opportunity, I express my deep appreciation to the Cuban party, government, and people for always positively supporting our people's cause of the fatherland's reunification.

[PRENSA LATINA] How do you assess the relations between your country and Cuba, and how do you recall your meeting with Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

[Kim] Though Korea and Cuba are far apart with an ocean and a continent in between, the friendly ties between the people of the two countries are close like neighbors.

The friendship between the people of our two countries is militant friendship between class brothers who oppose imperialism and struggle for victory in the socialist cause and a genuine and solid friendship based on revolutionary principle and comradely loyalty.

The friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries have been developing on a new high stage since we and Comrade Fidel Castro met. I still emotionally recall our meeting with Comrade Fidel Castro in 1986 in Pyongyang. At that time, we had our historic first meeting that we had looked forward to for a long time and talked and conversed in a comradely atmosphere.

The leaders of our two countries discussed the issue of further expanding and developing friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Cuba and various other matters of mutual concern, reached a consensus of views on all issues under discussion, and further consolidated our intimate relations.

Comrade Fidel Castro's visit to our country left an unforgettable impression on our people. Comrade Fidel Castro's visit to our country was followed by unanticipated complicated events in the international arena. However, the friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries are continuously developing according to the spirit, which was agreed on during the meeting between the leaders of the two countries, without shaking even in the vortex of history which determines the destiny of socialism.

The Cuban people are heroic people who are solidly defending the socialist post in the Western Hemisphere under difficult circumstances in which the imperialists are continuously maneuvering to isolate and crush [koripapsal] them.

Our people highly assess the fraternal Cuban people for the fact that they are excellently carrying out strategic tasks in a special time in a peaceful period [pyonghwa sigiui tukpyol sigi] after strongly uniting around the Communist Party of Cuba led by Comrade Fidel Castro, the outstanding leader of the Cuban revolution, and extend full support for and firm solidarity with them.

Further expanding and developing friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Cuba is the common desire of the people of the two countries, and marching under the uplifted banner of socialism in our two countries would greatly contribute to defending and maintaining the socialist cause and carrying out the cause of independence for mankind.

The Korean people will also in the future make every effort to develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the fraternal Cuban people.

I convey my friendly greetings to the fraternal Cuban people and sincerely wish that the Cuban people will bring about greater achievements in their struggle to defend the independence and sovereignty of the country and build socialism.

U.S. Export of Nuclear 'Material' Denounced

SK2005052594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 20 May 94

["U.S., Mastermind of Nuclear Proliferation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—The U.S. Board of Auditors reportedly submitted a report May 17 to the effect that the United States "exported more than 1,500 items of material and equipment useful for manufacturing nuclear weapons" to different countries including Israel from fiscal 1988 to 1992.

This is a very serious act turning the nonproliferation treaty into a mere sheet of paper and an unpardonable criminal act arousing a high vigilance of the international community.

This lays big hurdles in the way of building a nuclear-free world and poses a grave threat to the existence of mankind.

The United States, the mastermind of nuclear proliferation, is taking issue with the peaceful use of nuclear energy by the DPRK and urging it to "implement the nonproliferation treaty" as regards its "nuclear issue." This reminds people of a thief crying "stop thief."

It is ridiculous of the United States to try to brand the DPRK as a nuclear criminal with a fiction of "nuclear issue of North Korea" invented as part of its anti-socialist, anti-DPRK campaign.

It is the United States that must stand in the dock before the international community as a criminal state of

nuclear proliferation because it hinders the denuclearization of the world by exporting nuclear weapon-grade material and encouraging the emergence of potential nuclear-weapon states.

The United States, instead of vilifying the peaceloving DPRK, must apologize to the international community for its criminal encouragement of nuclear proliferation in violation of the nonproliferation treaty and no longer hinder the building of a nuclear-free world.

Radio Condemns Japan's 'Concealment' of Plutonium

SK1905142594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman released the following statement [tamhwa] on 19 May concerning the exposure of an extra-large case—the concealment of 70 kg of plutonium at the nuclear fuel-making factory in Japan.

The statement by a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman:

Recently, the true color of Japan as a nuclear criminal was dragged into the light of day, causing quite a stir internationally. As was already reported, an extra-large case of the concealment of 70 kg of plutonium at the nuclear fuel-making factory in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, was disclosed.

Japan had so far boasted of its uprightness, claiming that it had opened to the public the amount of plutonium it had stockpiled and had accepted strict inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. It was disclosed recently, however, that the Japanese authorities had not declared the amount of plutonium needed for the manufacture of more than nine nuclear warheads in the total inventory of plutonium, keeping it secret. This clearly showed their kind of shamelessness. The concealment of plutonium is a violation of universally recognized international law, which should be taken seriously and denounced.

The case also clearly indicates that the so-called three non-nuclear principles advertised so often by Japan are nothing but a screen for concealing a large quantity of plutonium and pushing ahead with nuclear armament in real earnest. Japan's noisy row over our nonexistent nuclear issue, taking the van in the intrigues to stifle the Republic, is nothing but a petty guile to veil its nuclear armament and divert the public attention elsewhere.

The Japanese authorities, caught red-handed, are these days making excuses by talking about the so-called probe into the truth and removal of suspicion, but no one will believe that.

Judging from the fact that many nuclear facilities of Japan have been in operation for several tens of years, it is too self-evident that the recently discovered plutonium is nothing but an extremely tiny part of the amount concealed in Japan.

International circles are now demanding that the IAEA Secretariat treat Japan's production and concealment of plutonium as a grave case and take relevant measures. It says if the IAEA Secretariat never takes issue with the dangerous nuclear activities of Japan and continues to make the matters complicated only over our fledgling peaceful nuclear activities, throwing suspicion on non-existent nuclear development, it cannot be construed otherwise than an application of a double standard.

The IAEA Secretariat must pay due attention to this issue in compliance with the principle of impartiality.

The United States, which has used our nuclear issue for a sinister political purpose, calling for a cooperation system to stifle our Republic, joining hands with Japan, the real nuclear criminal, cannot evade the responsibility for this case, either.

We do not feel any need to make further argument about the poor lot of the South Korean authorities [tangguk], who have recklessly made a fuss about our nuclear issue, currying favor with the United States and Japan, the two big powers. While the South Korean people in authority [tanggukjadul] ran about like mad, following Japan, the latter did what it wanted. What a ridiculous sight they are.

The Japanese authorities must declare to the international society the exact total amount of plutonium now concealed nationwide, and immediately stop nuclear armament.

We consider that under the circumstances it has been confirmed as a fact that Japan's nuclear armament is being promoted to the danger line and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has become practically meaningless.

We appeal to [hosohanda] the governments of all countries, international organizations, and antinuclear organizations to make unbiased efforts to remove the danger of nuclear development from our planet and, in particular, to launch a joint action to check the nuclear armament recklessly accelerated by Japan with the ambition of becoming a military and a nuclear power.

SKNDF Denounces Japan's Possession of Plutonium

SK2005002594 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The South Korea National Democratic Front [SKNDF] Central Committee issued on 14 May a statement concerning the discovery of 70 kilograms of plutonium, which is enough to manufacture nine nuclear bombs, at a plutonium plant in Japan. The full text of the statement is as follows:

Seventy kilograms of plutonium, enough for manufacturing nine nuclear bombs, has recently been discovered in Japan's plutonium plant for developing [words indistinct] nuclear fuel.

All countries of the world as well as the international community are now greatly concerned about and angry with the detection of the large amount of plutonium warding off international surveillance in Japan that claims to be a model in accepting so-called international nuclear inspections.

The discovery of as much as 70 kilograms of plutonium is vivid proof showing that Japan has secretly produced and stockpiled a huge amount of plutonium while accelerating its nuclear armament under the cloak of peaceful nuclear development, and has actually used the accumulated plutonium for military purposes.

At the same time, it clearly proves that the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] surveillance system is, in nature, not aimed at the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, but no more than a means of pressure and aggression that enables nuclear states, including the United States, to realize their ambition to dominate nonnuclear states.

In order to turn the attention of Asia and the rest of the countries concerned about Japan's nuclear armament to North Korea, the Japanese authorities are playing the role of shock brigade drumming up the United States' anti-North Korea nuclear commotion. They are accelerating their full-fledged nuclear armament behind the curtain of the (?commotion) over the so-called suspicion of North Korea's nuclear development.

In fact, there have been open attempts in Japan to politicize and legalize Japan's nuclear armament while opposing and distorting the peace law that prohibits the possession of nuclear weapons. Even absurd remarks stressing the unnecessariness of the three principles for denuclearization are heard.

Japan began the full-fledged development of nuclear weapons in the 1950s and has now become an unquestionable nuclear power [myongsil sangbuhan heak taeguk] with fissionable nuclear materials, the technology for manufacturing them, and the means of nuclear transportation.

Japan has strongly pushed ahead with the ambitious plan to secure highly-condensed uranium and plutonium and has accumulated 26 tonnes of plutonium. The amount of plutonium stockpiled by Japan will reach some 100 tonnes in the early 21st century.

Japan is now building a nuclear waste reprocessing plant to extract plutonium from the enormous amount of spent nuclear fuel used by 38 reactors being in operation at the Nikaimura nuclear complex. The plant, which will be completed soon, will produce eight tonnes of plutonium a year. This means that Japan will obtain enough plutonium to manufacture more than 1,000 [word indistinct] nuclear bombs a day.

Japan's ambition to secure a huge amount of plutonium is well shown by the fact that it abruptly began in April to operate Monju, a fast-breeding reactor installed in

Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, running counter to the worldwide trend of opposing fast-breeding reactors.

In addition, Japan succeeded in the test firing of the homemade long-range No. 1 F-2 Rocket early this year to pave the way for its possession of strategic nuclear missiles.

Japan's nuclear armament and its attempt to become a nuclear power belong to today's reality, not to tomorrow's [word indistinct].

The discovery of the concealed 70 kilograms of plutonium is indeed a proof of Japan's frenzy in nuclear development.

The SKNDF Central Committee sternly punishes and denounces, along with the peace-loving popular masses of the world, the Japanese authorities' maneuver to produce, stockpile, and secretly bring in the awful nuclear weapons that will drop on our nation and mankind, with the tacit permission from the United States and the IAEA.

At the same time, in the name of the nation, the SKNDF Central Committee sternly protests the nation-selling Kim Yong-sam group that is pushing ahead with its full-pledged nuclear weapon development in collusion with the Japanese reactionary authorities, behind the curtain of the U.S. anti-North Korea nuclear commotion to destroy North Korea, where the fellow countrymen live.

The Japanese nuclear armament (?threatens) peace in Asia and the world. Japan's maneuver to become a nuclear power is increasing the nuclear war danger on the Korean peninsula.

Despite these facts, the United States and the IAEA are maneuvering to pressure North Korea by fabricating and amplifying the suspicion over the fictitious nuclear development of North Korea, while ignoring Japan's nuclear armament, whose true nature has been revealed. This is a significant infringement upon the international justice, peace, and impartiality.

We expect that governments, political parties, and organizations of countries in the world as well as international organizations, which love justice and peace and pursue common prosperity and development, will deter Japan's ambition of nuclear armament and will even more broadly organize and round off the struggle to establish a new order for controlling nuclear development based on international impartiality.

The SKNDF will continue to strongly wage the antiwar and antinuclear peace movement to cope with Japan's nuclear armament maneuver that threatens the Korean peninsula, Asia, and (?the whole world) and with the anti-North Korea nuclear commotion by the United States and international reactionary forces [kukche pandong seryok] aimed at making the Korean peninsula the victim of a nuclear war.

KCNA Cites SKNDF Statement

SK2005123694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523
GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) issued a statement on May 14 concerning the recent discovery of much plutonium in Japan, the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

The statement said:

The discovery of 70 kg of plutonium in Japan is patent proof that the Japanese authorities, while accelerating nuclear armament behind the curtain of "peaceful nuclear development" for scores of years, have produced and stockpiled a large amount of plutonium in secrecy and are diverting it for military purposes in actuality.

This also clearly proves that the surveillance system of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is not mechanism for nuclear non-proliferation but a tool of pressure and aggression allowing the United States and other nuclear-weapon states to dominate non-nuclear weapon states.

With a view to diverting to the North the attention of Asia and the rest of the world concerned over Japan's nuclear armament, the Japanese authorities are playing the role of a shock brigade in the anti-DPRK nuclear racket of the United States and promoting their nuclear armament in real earnest behind the big scene made over the "suspicion of the nuclear development" by the North.

Japan's nuclear armament is a cancer in the peace of Asia and the rest of the world.

The danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is growing due to Japan's efforts to become a nuclear power.

Nevertheless, the United States and the IAEA are kicking up a pressure campaign against the North over its "nuclear suspicion" while closing their eyes to Japan's undisguised nuclear armament. This is a grave violation of international justice, peace and impartiality.

We express the hope that the governments, political parties and organisations of all countries that love justice and peace and pursue common prosperity and development as well as international organisations will more extensively organise the struggle to check Japan's ambitious nuclear armament and establish a new order of nuclear control based on international impartiality.

Our Hanminjon will in the future, too, wage a strong anti-war, anti-nuke peace movement against Japan's nuclear armament threatening peace and human existence in the Korean peninsula, Asia and the rest of the world and against the anti-North nuclear intrigues of the United States and international reactionary forces intended to put the Korean peninsula on the altar of a nuclear war.

Japan Said Using Nuclear Issue To Expand Military

SK2005055094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0529
GMT 20 May 94

["Crafty Ruse"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—Ichiro Ozawa and other ultra-rightists of Japan are openly making haste with the completion of legal preparations for military expansion overseas, raising a terrific hue and cry over "a security crisis" with regard to the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa stated recently that the government was examining "emergency legislative arrangements" for the reaction of the "self-defense forces" in "the event of contingency" on the Korean peninsula, taking issue with the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK. And the general director of the defense agency and the chief cabinet secretary also said that practical preparations for "security emergency legislative arrangements" had been completed by and large.

The "security crisis" advertised by the Japanese rulers is a sheer fiction. No one threatens or intends to attack Japan today.

Their outcries over "a security crisis" are a sophism for justifying their hostile policy against the DPRK and their scheme to stage a military comeback to Korea.

In actuality, the reactionary ruling circles of Japan, peddling the ware of "security crisis," are seeking to establish "an emergency system" and "a wartime mobilisation system" through the "security emergency legislative arrangements" against "an event of contingency" on the Korean peninsula and legally gratify their desire of military reinvasion.

Japan has made all military and material preparations for reinvasion. What remains to be done is to create a legal foundation allowing it.

In advertising "a security crisis" over the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK, the Japanese reactionaries also intend to prop up the unstable present government by sidetracking the attention of the Japanese people.

The militarists manipulated by the force of Ichiro Ozawa are wringing their own necks in the suicidal act of getting overheated in the reinvasion moves while crying for the establishment of "an emergency system." The Asian people are highly vigilant against the reinvasion moves of the Japanese right-wing reactionaries.

The Japanese reactionary ruling quarters should face the reality squarely and give up their foolish attempt to repeat the past crimes.

Chongnyon's Osaka Branch Meets Japanese Media*SK2005112994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 (KNS-KCNA) [dateline as received]—The Osaka prefectural headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) held a roundtable conversation with Japanese media on May 16.

Present on the occasion were the head of the local branch office of the Japanese Jiji press, chief editors of the Osaka head offices of ASAHI SHIMBUN, MAINICHI SHIMBUN, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN and SANKEI SHIMBUN and representatives of the NHK, the KYODO News Service and YOMIURI SHIMBUN.

Speaking at the roundtable, O Hyong-chin, vice-chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee and chairman of the Osaka prefectural headquarters of Chongnyon, said the question of "suspected nuclear development" of the DPRK has been reported by Japanese media in a way contrary to facts, thereby hampering the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, the denuclearization of Northeast Asia. "The DPRK has neither intention nor capacity to develop nuclear weapons," he stressed.

Calling attention to the unreasonable search of the Osaka organization of Chongnyon by the Japanese police, assaults on Korean students in Japan and rampant reports and tones inciting the consciousness of national chauvinism, he demanded an immediate halt to such acts.

Yi Chong-ok Meets U.S. Committee on Korea Group*SK1905221094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 19 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 19 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok today met and had a talk with the visiting delegation of the American Committee on Korea led by its Executive Director John M. Swomley at the Mansudae Assembly hall.

The head of the delegation said Korea was built wonderfully in a short period after the war and that there are many monumental architectures in Korea.

He also said he got deep impressions from the happy laughter of children and the diligence of the Korean people and their efforts for world peace.

Overseas Pomminnyon Denounces U.S., 'Followers'*SK1905220894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 19 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—The overseas headquarters of the National

Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) issued a statement May 16 denouncing the United States and its followers for pushing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

The statement charged that the United States and the South Korean puppet clique [words indistinct] "nuclear issue". It also denounced the Japanese authorities who, taking advantage of this, are trying to justify the troop dispatch of their "Self-Defence Forces" to the Korean peninsula with much ado about "emergency legislative arrangements."

The overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon will devote its all to the struggle for the great, close unity of the nation, joining force with all the fellow countrymen, the statement said, calling upon the 70 million fellow countrymen in the North and the South of Korea and abroad to turn out as one to repulse unreasonable foreign interference and war provocation moves and accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

It also urged the South Korean authorities to discard the stance of dependence on outside forces and national confrontation and turn at an early date to the road of national independence, reconciliation and unity.

Dailies Comment on South's Response on POW's*SK2005104894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 20 May 94*

["Far-Fetched Argument for Sinister Purpose"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—The North side in recent telephone messages respectfully requested the South Korean Red Cross to immediately send back to the North Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, prisoners of war and unconverted long-term prisoners, and take measures to allow the children of Kim Pyong-chu, an unconverted prisoner who died a few years ago, including the eldest daughter Kim Chi-hyon suffering from a serious disease, to come to the North to receive medical treatment and be protected in their livelihood.

The South side, however, has taken no positive measure for the repatriation of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, arguing that they do not belong to the category of prisoners of war, and blindly turns down the request as regards Kim Chi-hyon.

It is self-evident that this is a far-fetched argument for a sinister purpose, directed by the South Korean authorities behind the scene, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst says:

The argument that Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan do not fall under the category of prisoners of war is a sheer distortion of fact. They are prisoners of war who were arrested by a warring party while active as guerrillas

(militiamen) during the last war. The South side's argument is a violation of international law on humanitarianism and a far-fetched one.

What the South side argues about "acquirement of nationality" is also absurd. Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan have long since wished to return to the North and asked International Red Cross organisations to help them in their repatriation. It is unreasonable to try to keep them in South Korea for the reason of their "acquirement of (South Korean) nationality."

Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan are not "killers of innocent people" as described by the South side but patriots who fought with arms in hand against foreign aggressors and the traitors of South Korea who plunged the innocent people into the scourge of war.

The South side is rejecting our hand of relief while failing to look after sick Kim Chi-hyon and give her medical treatment.

This is an act which can be done only by those devoid of humanism and national conscience.

Either in view of the requirement of international law or in view of the Red Cross idea of humanitarianism, it is only too natural that the prisoners of war should be repatriated and fellow countrymen suffering from poverty and illness be rescued. The South side must send them to the North as soon as possible.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst demands that the South Korean Red Cross meet the North's just demand with the original attitude of Red Cross.

ROK Air Force Commanders Meeting Decried

SK2005105794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] According to a broadcast report from Seoul, the nation-selling Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique held a so-called key commanders meeting of the puppet Air Force on 17 May to conspire a war plot for northward invasion.

At this meeting, the puppets took measures to strengthen the Air Force's combat-ready posture while talking about the need to make every preparation for regular war, mentioning threats by someone else.

Crying over the fictitious nuclear issue of the North, the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique are frenzied in war provocation maneuvers for a northward invasion by using the issue as a pretext.

The recent conspiracy plainly shows the true nature of the puppet clique that seeks to provoke a war, playing into U.S. hands [mijeui changdane chumul chumyonso chonjaeng tobarui killo naedannun].

KCNA Reports Demonstrations in Kwangju 18 May

SK2005122494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—More than 3,000 students and citizens out of the participants in a commemoration ceremony and a people's rally on the 14th anniversary of the May 18 Kwangju popular resistance which was held in Kwangju, the city of resistance, on May 18 went over to a demonstration from 11:00 at night, according to a report from Seoul.

The demonstrators thronged to the Kwangju and South Cholla Provincial branches of the "Democratic Liberal Party" and strongly demanded a probe into the truth behind the Kwangju massacre which was still kept in the dark and the punishment of those responsible for it.

They continued the demonstration till past midnight, fighting the riot police.

That day another group of participants in the people's rally mourned those who fell in the Kwangju resistance, marching in a candle procession toward the Kwangju railway station along Kumnan road, the spot of the historical resistance.

Mass Rallies Mark Anniversary

SK2005123494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—Mass rallies have been held in different parts of the DPRK to mark the 14th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising in South Korea in May 1980.

Mass rallies took place in South Pyongan and North Hwanghae Provinces Thursday.

The speakers at the rallies described the Kwangju uprising as an anti-U.S., anti-fascist democratic resistance in which the entire citizens of Kwangju rose up in a death-defying struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

Fourteen years have passed since the resistance fighters of Kwangju shed blood of patriotism, but their desire has not been realised, the speakers said, adding that this is because the U.S. imperialists have not given up their design to keep hold on South Korea as their colony and military base.

Referring to the vicious campaign of the United States to stifle the DPRK over its "nuclear issue," the speakers said the United States unilaterally called off the third round of talks with the DPRK and is manipulating some dishonest quarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency in an effort to put "international pressure" on the DPRK.

If the desire of the Kwangju martyrs is to be realised, they said, it is essential to get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and overthrow the Kim Yong-sam puppet regime. The South Korean

people and students must fight more courageously to bring about a new morning of democracy free from subjugation, they stressed.

ROK Group Calls For Reinstatement of Workers

*SK2005125494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008
GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—The South Korean National Committee of Struggle for the Reinstatement of the Detained, wanted and dismissed workers (Chonha-etu), an organization embracing workers of some 40 businesses, called for rising general turnout in the struggle for the reinstatement of dismissed workers at a rally held with the attendance of some 1,000 workers, students and citizens, according to a South Korean newspaper report.

It criticized the Kim Yong-sam regime for turning a deaf ear to voices of the workers across the country calling for reinstatement and the guarantee of their right to live. "The reinstatement of the dismissed workers is possible only when a mass struggle is waged," it said, and stressed: "Let all of us devote our efforts, lives and energy to the struggle for their reinstatement."

It declared that the dismissed workers in all parts of South Korea would enter into a tent sit-in and a hunger strike for an indefinite period and wage a death-defying battle till their demands have been met.

Bulgarian Envoy Hosts Party Marking Culture Day

*SK2005093194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504
GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—A cocktail party was given by Bulgarian Ambassador to Korea Yordan Mutafchiev Thursday on the occasion of the day of culture, education and Slav letters.

Invited to the party were Chairman of the State Education Commission and Chairman of the Korea-Bulgaria Friendship Association Choe Ki-yong, Vice-chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Kim Yong-su, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were exchanged at the cocktail party.

Cultural Exchange Plan Signed With Senegal

*SK2005061094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454
GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—The 1994-1996 plan for cultural exchange between the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Senegal was signed in Dacar on May 13.

It was signed by Yi Song-nin, Korean ambassador to Senegal, and Coura Ba Thiam, Senegalese minister of culture.

Rice Planting in 'Full Swing' on Yomju Plain

*SK2005125194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005
GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 20 (KCNA)—Rice-transplanting is in full swing on the Yomju plain in North Pyongan Province which is situated in the northwestern part of Korea.

The farmers there who had assiduously made farming preparations from early spring are transplanting rice seedlings on 500 to 600 hectares of fields a day by raising the operation rate of farm machines including tractors, rice-transplanting machines and rice seedling-plucking machines and scrupulously organizing work when the season of rice-transplanting came.

The Yomju plain is one of the nation's major paddy rice producers.

Agricultural production in the plain called Pura plain before the liberation of the country was insignificant under the Japanese imperialists' colonial predatory policy.

After the liberation it has turned into a fertile land reaping bumper crops thanks to the correct agricultural policy of the DPRK Government.

The state has invested huge funds to increase agricultural production on the plain. It has built the Kuam, Sorim, Yonggok and Kwangbong reservoirs, more than 200 pumping stations, waterways extending several hundred kilometres and many irrigation setups.

The establishment of the Amnok River irrigation system with the Lake Manpung as the main source helped solve completely the water problem on the plain where a proper farming had been impossible for want of water, although it had a fertile arable land.

As a result of the completion of irrigation, not a small area of fields and tidal flats have been reclaimed and, now, the area under paddy rice is six times as large as that at the end of 1944, the year before the liberation of the country. In the 1980s, more than 8,800 hectares of tideland have been reclaimed.

There are over 20 cooperative farms on the plain. Each cooperative farm has scores of tractors and trucks, various trailing farm machines, rice-transplanting machines, rice seedling-plucking machines and other farm machines and means of transport.

Their level of the application of chemicals is high. The amount of application of chemical fertilizers per hectare was more than two tons on the plain last year.

Food grain production has annually increased. A gain of more than 12,000 tons was registered last year above the previous year.

In the same period, the income share of each farmer increased 12 percent in grain and 28 percent in cash.

The production of meat, eggs, fruits and vegetables also has increased markedly.

The rural villages, with cosy modern dwelling houses, schools, hospitals, nurseries, kindergartens and welfare and service facilities well arranged against the background of orchards, resemble a fairyland.

Article Stresses Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

SK2005080394 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Choe In-tok, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army, KPA: "Loyalty to the Supreme Comrade Commander Is a Noble Ideological and Spiritual Ethos of the People's Army"]

[Text] Our People's Army is the army of the leader [suryong], the party, and the revolution. Its basic mission is to defend by force of arms the cause of the party and the cause of the leader [suryong], who pioneered the road of the revolution. This is our revolutionary armed forces' traditional and revolutionary character which has been purely and constantly handed down to us in the whole course of history from the days the first gun shot was heard at the forest of Mt. Paektu to date.

Loyalty to the leader [suryong] is the most basic ideological and spiritual characteristic that defines the true revolutionary character of our People's Army. Loyalty to the leader [suryong] fully displayed by our People's Army in the course of stern revolutionary wars, as well as in the flame of sharp class struggles, has attained an unprecedented, noble point today.

Our People's Army overflows with the firm and solid faith and will of our party to have the People's Army, which will resolutely safeguard and defend the party and the leader [suryong] and will go through fire and water to endlessly execute an order if it is issued by the party.

The loyalty of our People's Army to till to resolutely safeguard and uphold the supreme commander general Kim Chong-il by sharing forever its fate with him and by regarding loyalty to him as its life.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: It is the greatest glory and pride the supreme comrade commander is very clear and fresh and is hotter than fire. Therefore, it can be characterized as the most sacred and true loyalty that can never change under any circumstance. This has been inspired by the great leader [suryong] and is the noble ideological and spiritual ethos that can only be cherished by our People's Army which is being further strengthened and developed with each passing day by the warm solicitude of the outstanding leadership that has been inherited generation after generation.

Since the first day of its foundation, our People's Army has glorified the tradition of loyalty to absolutely and unconditionally uphold the ideology and leadership of the leader [suryong] by upholding its leader [suryong] as

the center of the leadership and as its commander, by totally entrusting its fate to him, and by politically and ideologically safeguarding and defending him at the risk of its lives.

The proud tradition of the People's Army prepared by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who founded our revolutionary armed force, has been more nobly and brilliantly inherited in the course of upholding the supreme commander General Kim Chong-il. The absolute and unconditional loyalty to the supreme commander General Kim Chong-il is a noble ideological and spiritual ethos of our People's Army.

Above all, the true loyalty of our People's Army to the supreme comrade commander has been vigorously displayed by a firm faith and will of the entire army, which resolutely safeguards the great general Kim Chong-il.

Today, the entire army wants to become the rifle and bomb that can safeguard our supreme comrade commander. This is a resolute determination of our People's Army ranks, as well as a slogan of faith and will highly raised by all of our officers and men of the People's Army.

The determination of loyalty vigorously forged in the hearts of the officers and men of the People's Army is based on a thorough revolutionary awareness and an absolute worship indicating that the supreme commander General Kim Chong-il is the destiny of our party and revolution, the fatherland and people, and the Army, the banner of victory, and is all [chonbu] of the bright future.

There is no fatherland, people, or army without the supreme comrade commander. This is the unshakable creed of soldiers and men of our People's Army. The noble and firm creed is a noble ideological sentiment that our People's Army soldiers have firmly cherished deep into their hearts during the days they receive the leadership from the dear comrade leader for a long time. This noble ideological sentiment firmly cherished by the officers and men of the People's Army has been further consolidated as they face stern difficulties and trials in the road of the revolution.

Taking advantage of the recent collapse of socialism and the resurrection of capitalism in some countries, offensives hurled by the imperialists and reactionaries against our Republic, the fortress of socialism, are reaching to extremes. As the result, our people's socialist cause has met with grave challenges. However, the stern trial of the history has been resolutely overcome, and our people and army are achieving victory after victory in the standoff with enemies without gunshots thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il—the great leader [yongdoja] of revolution with both literary and military accomplishments, the ever-victorious iron-willed commander, and the greatest general in the world [chonhajeil changun].

In today's grandiose reality which has won worldwide admiration, our officers and men of the People's Army are cherishing deep in their hearts the truth that our

people and army are courageous, that our socialist cause remains unmoved, and that our republic remains strong because the comrade supreme commander stands at the head of our party and revolution, and the state and the army.

Numerous officers and men of the People's Army have sent letters of loyalty carrying their resolute pledge to the comrade supreme commander and are striving to implement their pledge. Among them are eight brothers of officers who resolved to become eight stands of rifles and eight bombs defending the comrade supreme commander; eight brothers of officers who were determined to become six swords and shields guarding the comrade supreme commander; and the eight brothers and sisters of KPA officer Yi Chang-ung who promised to become true loyalists and dutiful sons and daughters safeguarding General Kim Chong-il at the very front with rifles by becoming eight Yi In-mo's.

There are many deeds of numerous heroes, whether they are famous or not, devoting their youth for the party and the leader—such as in the case of Hero Han Yong-cho who covered an exploding hand-grenade with his body to save the portraits of the great leader and dear leader Comrades in an accidental touch-and-go moment—are examples that prove their vows.

Such determinations, resolutions, and courageous conducts to resolutely defend the comrade supreme commander are lofty ideological, mental features that can only be cherished by our People's Army who were brought up by the hands of the great General Kim Chong-il.

The People's Army's true sense of loyalty toward the comrade supreme commander can also be clearly demonstrated on the road of unconditionally implementing great General Kim Chong-il's idea and leadership.

The idea and leadership of the Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il are a decisive guarantee that triumphantly consummates the cause of chuche-oriented military construction. Thanks to the comrade supreme commander's idea and leadership, our People's Army has been strengthened and developed into today's one-a-match-for-hundred revolutionary armed forces firmly prepared in political, ideological, military, and technological aspects, and is fulfilling its noble mission as defenders of the party and revolution, and the fatherland and people.

Our officers and men of the People's Army, through their actual life experiences, have learned the comrade supreme commander's superior idea on military construction and his extraordinary leadership, and have kept in their hearts a firm creed that victory and glory can only be found on the road to upholding the idea and leadership of great General Kim Chong-il.

This has become the foundation of our soldiers of the People's Army who regard the comrade supreme commander's idea and intention as the invaluable demand of life and the greatest glory and happiness and who wish to

demonstrate exploits by sacrificing themselves for the struggle to implement them. The comrade supreme commander's chuche-oriented military construction and his revolutionary lines have become the one and only guide in the military, political activities of our People's Army and all other sectors. Likewise, the revolutionary military ethos in which everyone works as one under the leadership of the comrade supreme commander are overflowing inside the entire ranks.

Holding firm the party's line on converting the entire army into a cadre, the entire officers and men of the People's Army are reliably improving their political and ideological, and military and technological preparations so as to fulfill their mission on a higher stage. In the struggle to realize the party's line on converting the entire army into a cadre, they have acquired knowledge in weapons, combat material and technical equipment as well as in the chuche-oriented strategic tactics and war method in accordance with the requirements of modern warfare weapons and our country's specific situation. Every military position of the entire country's defense lines has been built up impreguably. All these have been accomplished during the course of thoroughly implementing and absolutely upholding the comrade supreme commander's idea, leadership, orders, and instructions.

"When the comrade supreme commander decides, we will do!," the slogan of loyalty which is in high spirit among the entire army vividly shows up the strength and firmness of the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality, and faith and will of our officers and men of the People's Army who are marching forward by upholding great General Kim Chong-il's idea and leadership.

In the rewarding struggle of faithfully upholding the comrade supreme commander's idea and leadership, the party's program on imbuing the entire army with the chuche idea has become a brilliant reality.

The party's system of leadership has been firmly established among the People's Army, a fundamental change has taken place in the ideological, mental features of officers and men, the lineage of chuche, the heritage of single-hearted unity and loyalty have been brilliantly inherited in every sector of military construction.

Guided by the idea of chuche-oriented military construction, the People's Army has been brought up as an invincible revolutionary armed forces equipped with modern offensive and defensive means, and reliable command capacity which can easily organize and carry out any operation or combat. What is more, soldiers have been firmly prepared as all-around men of combative spirit who can brilliantly fulfill its military mission under any circumstances, armed with the war method of our own style and the immortal chuche idea.

Under the leadership of the party, combat capacity has been incomparably strengthened not only among the People's Army but also among the Working Red Guards and the Red Youth Vanguard, and all people have

armed themselves, and the entire country has been consolidated as an impregnable fortress.

Loyalty of our People's Army—who are upholding the comrade supreme commander's idea and leadership—has not only been fully displayed in fulfilling its mission as defender of the fatherland but also in implementing its glorious mission as creators of the people's happiness.

In wholehearted response to the great General Kim Chong-il's grandiose plan on socialist construction, the officers and men of the People's Army are devoting their sweat of loyalty in the worthwhile combat ground of creation and construction. Heroic exploits performed by the soldiers of the People's Army are inscribed on every monumental creation that has glorified the era of the Workers Party of Korea—including the world-renowned Sohae Lockgate, other various Lockgates at Taedong River and the construction of Pyongyang-Kaesong Highway.

Wisdom, courageousness, unequalled patriotic devotions, and mass heroism displayed by our officers and men of the People's Army—who are determined to carry out the work of defending the fatherland and building socialism—are all the more demonstrated proudly with each passing day along with the progress of our revolution.

On the road to upholding the comrade supreme commander's idea and leadership, our People's Army has brought the traditional blood ties with the people into a full bloom onto a more noble stage. Herein lies a firm guarantee enabling the army and the people to be united around the great general Kim Chong-il and to become a body of purity [sungyolche] united in one ideology and purpose and in moral obligation which can never be broken.

Truly, our People's Army's loyalty toward the Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il sheds its ray as the most noble and lofty one as well as and the warmest, strongest, and invincible one which is unprecedented in the history of military construction.

Today, our revolutionary situation is very tense and the challenges of enemies are getting extreme with each passing day. However, as long as powerful one-a-match-for-a-hundred militant ranks of loyalty, the heroic People's Army, exists under the wise leadership of the comrade supreme commander, no stern crisis can ever check our march or dare touch us.

Our People's Army, as in the past, will be forever loyal to Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il. In doing so, it will brilliantly fulfill its glorious mission as the leader's army, the party's army, and the revolutionary army in consummating the chuche revolutionary cause; will achieve the fatherland reunification at the earliest possible date; and will glorify and determinedly defend the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style.

Maintaining Socialist Principle Stressed

*SK1905111994 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0725 GMT 17 May 94*

[Unattributed talk from the "Ray of Chuche" program: "The Fundamental Principle in Socialism That Should Be Consistently Maintained in the Revolution and Construction"]

[Text] In his immortal classic work "The Historic Lessons in Socialist Construction and the General Line of our Party," the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated that the fundamental principle should be consistently maintained in order to defend and protect the socialist cause.

The idea and theory of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on consistently maintaining the socialist principle in revolution and construction illuminated a revolutionary path that enables us to thoroughly smash the imperialists' anti-socialist maneuvers and to tenaciously defend, protect, and carry to accomplishment the socialist cause.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The principle of socialism should be consistently maintained in the revolution and construction to carry to accomplishment the socialist cause.

The dear comrade leader clearly expounded the fundamental principle that should be consistently maintained in socialist construction. The fundamental principle that should be consistently maintained in socialist construction is to thoroughly protect and embody the independent demands and interest of the popular masses.

The socialist society is a society that has embodied the natural demand of the popular masses to eliminate exploitation and oppression of the people by the people and to live all equally independently. The course of building socialism and communism is the course of realizing the total independence of the popular masses.

Although circumstances and conditions of struggle in the course of building socialism may change, the fundamental demand and position of the popular masses to achieve independence will never change. Therefore, the party of the working class should tenaciously defend the independent demand and interest of the popular masses while leading socialist construction, and should resolve all problems raised in the revolution and construction thoroughly in accordance with the fundamental interest of the popular masses.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has clearly elucidated the issue as to how one should carry out work to maintain the fundamental principle of socialism.

For one to maintain the fundamental principle of socialism, which defends and protects the independent demand and fundamental interest of the popular masses, one should strengthen the party of the working class organizationally and ideologically, and should firmly ensure the party's guidance over the revolution and

construction. In addition, one should constantly enhance the role and functions of the socialist regime; should adhere to and develop the socialist ownership, and should tenaciously struggle against the imperialists.

This is the revolutionary principle which we cannot concede even to a slightest degree. The independent demand and interest of the popular masses can be firmly ensured and achieved only by the leadership of the party of the working class.

The working class is the class that has embodied independence at the highest level and that struggles more tenaciously than any other class for achieving the independent demands and interest of the popular masses.

For the working class and for its party, there cannot be any other demands and interest than the demands and interest of the popular masses. The class mission of the working class is to thoroughly defend and achieve the demands and interest of the popular masses.

Therefore, it is an indispensable demand to maintain consistently and thoroughly the embodiment of the revolutionary principle in socialist construction to strengthen the party and firmly ensure the party's leadership.

It is a firm guarantee for thoroughly adhering to the principle of socialism to strengthen the socialist regime and enhance its role and functions.

The socialist regime is a commanding system that represents the sovereignty of the popular masses—the masters of socialist society—and manages overall domains of socialist life in a unified manner.

Thanks to the socialist regime, the independence of the popular masses is to be ensured, creative activities are to be carried out in a unified manner, and socialist construction is to be pushed for.

Only when we strengthen the socialist regime, can we always dampen the swell of antirevolutionary factors by using revolutionary weapons under the condition that the imperialists are continuously maneuvering against socialism.

To maintain [kosu] and develop socialist ownership is also important in holding fast to socialist principles. If we fail to maintain socialist ownership and tend toward private ownership, we would completely destroy the socialist system itself and, as a result, the working people would become slaves of capital.

Therefore, we should constantly develop socialist ownership by evolving cooperative ownership into all-people ownership [hyoptongjok soyurul choninminjok soyuero chopkunsikinun pangboburo] while continuously enhancing the guiding role of all-people ownership.

Revolutionary principles in socialist construction are importantly shown in one's attitude toward imperialists. It is particularly important to thoroughly hold fast to an anti-imperialist position under the situation in which

imperialists are strengthening the antirevolutionary maneuver to annihilate [wahae] and destroy [malsal] the socialist cause. Accordingly, we should continue to struggle against imperialism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il not only elucidated questions raised in adhering to socialist principles, but also clearly explained that one should not abandon the basic principle of socialism under any condition and that even the slightest concession of the basic socialist principle would result in the grave situation that the party itself will be destroyed and socialism will be frustrated.

We should creatively develop our line and policies in accordance with the changing environments and conditions for the revolutionary struggle in the course of building socialism, communism. Under any situation, however, the working-class party shouldering the people's destinies should not deviate from revolutionary principles and the working-class line.

To abandon revolutionary principles in the struggle in between socialism and capitalism means surrender and degeneration. If one vacillates in a temporary obstacle, yields under the imperialists' pressure, and abandons revolutionary principles after making a gradual concession of them, it will result in an unimaginably grave consequence.

In adhering to the basic principle of socialism, it is particularly important to heighten our caution against pluralism being blared by imperialists and to thoroughly oppose it. The so-called pluralism cannot be allowed in socialist society. Ideological freedom, a multi-party political system, and varied ownership under the mask of pluralism are political methods of a capitalist society that is governed by a struggle for existence based on individualism and liberalism.

As the socialist society is based on collectivism, and its heart [saengmyong] is the unity of popular masses, socialism and pluralism cannot coexist. Introduction of pluralism in socialism would encourage individualism and liberalism, which will infringe upon common social interests, destroy the unity of popular masses, and create social disorder and confusion. The allowance of ideological freedom and a multi-party political system will result in the destruction of socialist ground.

An ideological struggle is the prelude of a political struggle, which finally develops into a power struggle. If antisocialist ideological trends are dissipated due to ideological liberalization and antirevolutionary political parties' activities are guaranteed by the allowance of democracy represented by the so-called multi-party system, the class enemies and reactionaries will raise their heads and try to conquer the people's regime.

If we generally accept the capitalist political methods and economic system after completely abandoning socialist principles, being obsessed by an illusion of capitalism without faith in socialism, socialism will be frustrated and capitalism will revive.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il taught [karuch-isimyonso] us that only one step backward from socialist principles will lead one to make 100 steps of concession and retrogression, and stressed that we should keep them to the last under any condition.

Embodied herein is our party's revolutionary position and iron-strong will to consummate the socialist, communist cause under the banner of the *chuche* idea while boldly overcoming any severe circumstance and trial.

The justness of the ideological theory on invariably adhering to socialist principles in the revolution and construction is clearly proven by specific realities in our country. All party members and working people should firmly keep the basic principle of socialism, whose justness and vitality are obviously being demonstrated, and should faithfully uphold the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

KCNA Reports Release of New Documentary Films

SK1905220994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 19 (KCNA)—The Korean documentary film studio has of late released several documentary films.

"Turned Into Good Place", the first part of the documentary film "Following the Glorious Footsteps" deals with the changes of Korean cities and rural villages beyond recognition through the on-the-spot guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song who has been devoting his whole life to the freedom and happiness of the people for long years since he embarked on the road of revolution in his early years.

The documentary film "Four Seasons of Pyongyang" vividly depicts the looks of Pyongyang today that has been built grandly and beautifully as the capital socialist motherland under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il and the happiness of working people living an independent and creative life against the background of the natural sceneries of four seasons.

The newly released documentary films include "International Seminar on the *Chuche* Idea Held in Uganda (Kampala, 10-12. Feb. 1994)" which records the international seminar on the *chuche* idea held with success in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, powerfully displaying the aspirations of progressive mankind to build an independent new world.

The studio has also made the documentary film "Soldiers of the General" which deals with the indomitable struggle of soldiers of the Korean People's Security Forces who returned to the motherland after winning a courageous fight with the enemy without the slightest vacillation, not abandoning their revolutionary faith and principle in the enemy-controlled area.

The new productions include "Our Party Cell" truthfully depicting the activities of a cell, the grassroots organization of the Workers' Party of Korea, which has creditably performed its noble mission and duty in strengthening and developing the party and victoriously advancing the revolution and construction, and a documentary film "Newly-Built Houses for 30,000 Families" showing the heroic stamina of the Korean people in splendidly building the houses for 30,000 families in the capital as grand monumental edifices.

South Korea

IAEA To 'Immediately' Send Negotiators to DPRK

SK2005003594 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2310 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] made an urgent proposal to North Korea today that it will immediately send its negotiators [hyopsangtim] to Pyongyang to discuss necessary steps [pilryohan chochi] regarding the replacement of fuel rods at a nuclear reactor. We have news from Vienna-based reporter Cha Man- sun:

[Begin Cha recording] A few minutes ago, the IAEA issued a special statement regarding North Korea's replacing fuel rods at the nuclear reactor. After assessing that it can take all necessary steps to implement the nuclear agreement in the initial stage of replacing fuel rods at the North Korean nuclear reactor, the IAEA has made an urgent proposal that it will immediately send a working-level delegation [silmu taepyodan] to North Korea to discuss the issue.

The IAEA has issued the statement because it believes that it cannot verify the conversion of nuclear materials by North Korea if North Korea continues changing fuel rods without taking any necessary steps—such as taking samples from the spent fuel rods—for the inspection team.

In particular, the IAEA warned that it has no alternative but to report to the IAEA Board of Governors, as well as to the UN Security Council, because North Korea's changing of fuel rods without taking any steps according to the nuclear agreement required by the IAEA is a grave violation of the agreement.

The IAEA has asked North Korea to immediately cooperate on necessary steps according to the nuclear agreement [haekhyopchongsang pilryohan chochie chukkak hyopcho] and, at the same time, urged it to delay changing the fuel rods.

Finally, the IAEA warned that it cannot but make a conclusion that it cannot verify the previous conversion of nuclear materials by North Korea [kwago pukhanui haekmulchil chonyongul] if North Korea continues changing fuel rods in the future. [end recording]

IAEA Inspections Proceeding Without Problems*SK2005002794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0010 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Washington, May 19 (YONHAP)—International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors are continuing their activities at the North Korean nuclear complex in Yongbyon and nuclear fuel rods removed from the 5-megawatt reactor are being kept in the area, it was reported Thursday [19 May].

Press reports that North Korea was not attempting to separate the spent nuclear fuel rods and preserve them for later inspection have not been confirmed, sources said.

The information received from Yongbyon thus far is that the inspection team has not encountered any problems, they added.

The inspectors would surely have raised this issue had North Korea moved the fuel rods elsewhere or handled them in any other way, they said.

"It appears that the spent fuel rods removed from the reactor are being kept in the area for later preservation and checks," one source said.

Since they are only part of the roughly 8,000 rods, it is difficult to say what can be done about the situation, they said, indicating that follow-up measures by the United States and South Korea depend largely on the North's attitude.

Even though Pyongyang has removed some fuel rods from the reactor, the issue will not be referred to the UN Security Council if it cooperates with the IAEA inspectors, they added.

Minister on IAEA Inspections, U.S.-DPRK Talks*SK2005012794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Hanoi, May 20 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, confirming that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has proposed negotiations to North Korea on inspecting the refueling process at the 5-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, said Friday that the next round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks may be held next month.

"The immediate task right now is to stop North Korea from further discharging fuel rods from its reactor and to successfully conclude negotiations with the IAEA," said Han here in the middle of his Asian tour.

"The North Korea-U.S. high-level dialogue remains a possibility, assuming that these two conditions are met," Han said.

"The situation is neither optimistic nor pessimistic," said Han cautiously.

But other officials predicted that North Korea-U.S. dialogue will likely open next month if Pyongyang agrees

to stop changing the rods until an inspection accord is reached with the IAEA. In a long-awaited breakthrough that could well crack the nuclear impasse, the IAEA proposed sending a team to North Korea to negotiate the agency's presence and safeguards activities related to the rod discharge operation.

"North Korea had proposed earlier that it and the IAEA discuss the matter. The IAEA has, in a sense, accepted this proposal after judging that safeguards at the 5-megawatt reactor have not been broken yet," Han told reporters.

An IAEA monitoring team arrived in North Korea May 17 for a week-long inspection. The inspectors' main task was to determine whether North Korea had indeed started removing fuel rods from the 5-megawatt reactor and, if so, how many.

The agency's press release stated that "core discharge has indeed started."

The inspection team reported on the extent of the discharge, "and as of today, it still seems possible to implement the required safeguards measures," the IAEA said.

"In view of the above, the agency proposed sending a team of officials immediately to (North Korea)" to discuss necessary safeguards measures.

Ministry Issues Commentary on Fuel Rod Replacement*SK2005043294 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0400 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Today, in a commentary in the name of Chang Ki-ho, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the government expressed regret and worry over the fact that it has been confirmed that North Korea has begun replacing fuels at the 5-mw atomic reactor.

The government also urged North Korea to fulfill its duty of implementing safety measures in connection with the replacement of fuels at the 5-megawatt atomic reactor through immediate negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] which says that there remains the possibility of the implementation of safety measures if North Korea no longer pushes ahead with replacing fuels.

The government also made it clear that it will work out further countermeasures through close consultations with friendly countries, while watching the results of negotiations between the IAEA and North Korea.

Security Ministers Hold Meeting on Fuel Rods*SK2005041194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0341 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—The government decided Friday to consider asking the United Nations Security Council to take additional action should North Korea reject the IAEA's [International Atomic Energy

Agency] proposal to suspend the changing of fuel rods at a 5-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon and permit complete inspections.

The government held a unification and security policy coordination meeting attended by Yi Hong-ku, deputy prime minister and National Unification Board [NUB] minister, and other related ministers to discuss North Korea's replacement of fuel rods.

At the meeting held at the South-North dialogue office, the ministers also decided to strengthen cooperation with related countries, including the United States, in trying to solve the nuclear problem.

The government determined that North Korea's removal of spent fuel rods from the Yongbyon reactor is a serious violation of IAEA nuclear safeguards.

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog Thursday warned Pyongyang that if it continued to replace spent fuel rods at the 5-megawatt reactor, the case would be reported to the United Nations Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors.

The International Atomic Energy Agency also proposed to send a team to Pyongyang soon to negotiate inspection of the refueling process at the Yongbyon nuclear reactor. But the ministers agreed to draw up detailed counter-measures after determining North Korea's attitude, considering that settlement of the nuclear problem through negotiation is still possible. Deputy Prime Minister Yi was quoted as saying, "we still cannot say that the prospect for settlement of the North Korean nuclear problem is totally pessimistic. The IAEA expressed its position to Pyongyang, and now what is important is North Korea's choice."

NUB spokesman Kim Hyong-ki said, "we expect that North Korea will respond to the IAEA proposal soon. And we will decide ways to cope with the problem as soon as North Korea announces its answer."

A senior government official expected that if North Korea reacts negatively to the IAEA proposal, the government will have to consult the United States on asking the UN Security Council to take additional action against North Korea.

Defector Interviewed on DPRK Nuclear Development

SK2005035194 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 20 May 94

[YONHAP from Tokyo]

[Text] Mr. Kim Tae-ho, a worker at a North Korean uranium processing plant, who defected to the ROK on 7 May, revealed that the Workers Party's second economic committee under the direct control of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, had been carrying out nuclear development with massive capital investment, and that North

Korea had extracted 12 kg of plutonium in 1988. Mr. Kim gave an interview to YOMIURI SHIMBUN today in Seoul.

He also said: While the Atomic Energy Ministry [won-jaryok kongoppu] appears to be in charge of North Korea's nuclear development, in reality, Secretary Chon Pyong-ho of the Workers Party's second economic committee, is in charge of nuclear development at the instruction of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

Mr. Kim Tae-ho also said that many researcher friends had told him that North Korea extracted 12 kg of plutonium for the first time in the summer of 1988 by using the spent fuel at the 5-megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon and that the amount is enough to produce two nuclear bombs.

Mr. Kim also said that there was a coup attempt in the military last year, and that all involved, were arrested.

Further on Defector's Remarks

SK2005083094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0721 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 (YONHAP)—The 2nd economic committee of the Worker's (Nodong) Party, which is directly controlled by North Korean leader Kim Il-song and his son, Chong-il, is managing Pyongyang's nuclear development through enormous expenditures, a former North Korean worker at a uranium refinery, who defected to the South early this month, told a Japanese vernacular newspaper Friday.

"North Korea succeeded in extracting 12 kilograms of plutonium in 1988," 35-year-old Kim Tae-ho said in Seoul in an interview with the YOMIURI SHIMBUN.

On the surface, North Korea's nuclear program is seemingly under the control of the Atomic Energy Industry Ministry, but in fact it is managed by party Secretary Chon Pyong-ho, chief of the 2nd Economic Committee, Kim said.

The 2nd Economic Committee commands the logistics and atomic energy industries and the nuclear program is managed by its subordinate agency, called the 5th General Machinery Industry Bureau, he said.

All facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex are administered by the 5th Machinery Industry General Bureau and Economic Committee Chief Chon are operating them under direct instructions from Kim Il-song and his son.

Saying he had heard stories from several of his friends working as nuclear researchers, Kim told the YOMIURI that North Korea first succeeded in withdrawing plutonium from spent fuel in the 5-megawatt nuclear reactor at Yongbyon in the summer of 1988.

"Kim Il-song and his son were so happy that they went down to the reactor and gave each of the researchers and engineers a color television receiver," he said.

The extracted plutonium was estimated to weigh 12 kilograms, sufficient to produce two nuclear bombs, Kim pointed out. "In light of North Korea's technology, they (North Koreans) have yet to produce nuclear bombs, but I think they are near completion, he said.

He said a military coup was attempted in a bid to overthrow the Kim Il-song regime early last year. It was led by Vice Marshal Kim Pong-yul and several generals who studied in the former Soviet Union. They were all captured after their coup plan was blocked by Army General Political Bureau Director Yi Pong-won, Kim said.

Before fleeing to South Korea, Kim worked at a uranium refinery in Pyongsan, North Hwanghae Province, which sends ore to a processing factory in Yongbyon. The ore is known to be processed into fuel rods for use at nuclear reactors.

Kim Tae-chung Denies Reports on DPRK Remarks

SK1905075994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0727 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—Chairman Kim Tae-chung of the Peace Foundation for the Asia-Pacific Region has dismissed as "totally groundless" domestic reports that, in an interview with THE WASHINGTON TIMES, he said North Korea's possession of two or three nuclear weapons would pose no problem.

In a statement released through the foundation here Thursday [19 May], Kim expressed regret at the incorrect reporting on his interview with the U.S. newspaper and asked South Koreans not to misunderstand him.

"I have persistently said North Korea's nuclear ambitions must be completely done away with in tens of lectures, meetings and interviews that I have had since my arrival in the United States," he said.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES' story contained none of his remarks' true meaning, he stressed.

On his comments regarding a visit to the United States by North Korean President Kim Il-song, he said he had never proposed that President Bill Clinton invite Kim to visit Washington. "But I have said that I strongly believe Kim's participation in a U.N. General Assembly session as the head of state of a member nation would have the positive effect of solving the North Korean nuclear issue, promoting inter-Korean cooperation and easing tension on the Korean peninsula," he added.

Free discussion of various topics related to national unification will help the government forge a unification policy on the basis of a national consensus, he said, noting that all programs derived from such a policy must be carried out solely by the government.

U.S., ROK Defense Chiefs Hold Teleconference

SK2005013294 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae this morning held a telephone conversation with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, and discussed pending military issues between the two countries.

The telephone conversation between defense ministers of the ROK and the United States this morning was held in accordance with the mutual agreement on establishing a hotline, reached when Secretary Perry visited the ROK last month so that various pending military issues between the ROK and the United States can be discussed at all times. The conversation this time is the first occasion.

In a 20-minute conversation with Secretary Perry this morning, Minister Yi discussed the North Korean nuclear situation, inspections of which are underway. The two ministers agreed to continue close cooperation in dealing with North Korean nuclear issue.

The two ministers also exchanged views on matters of common interest between the two countries concerning security, including the North Korean side's recent withdrawal of its members from the Armistice Commission in Panmunjom, and its proposal for concluding a peace agreement.

The two ministers agreed to exchange views on important defense issues at all times in the future through a hotline, and thus to consolidate the military cooperation between the two countries.

U.S. Forces To Conduct 'Defense Readiness Drill'

SK1905072294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0630 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—The United States Forces in Korea (USFK) Thursday [19 May] launched a three-day defense readiness drill involving USFK dependents and American civilians residing in the country, a spokesman for the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) said.

The semi-annual drill called Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) will include the checking of manpower, paperwork and the operation to evacuate non-combatants in the event of war on the Korean peninsula, the spokesman said.

The spokesman added, "the drill is just part of the routine semiannual program having nothing to do with the current situation in which tension has escalated due to the standoff involving Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program."

Second Article on Review of U.S. Forces Pact

SK2005041394 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 May 94 p 3

[Second of two-part article by staff reporter Sim Chae-yun]

[Text] Another controversial point with regard to the SOFA [Status of Forces Agreement] is the allegation that the bilateral pact has provided the USFK servicemen and their dependent relatives in Korea with too much preferential treatment especially in connection with customs duties and use of military facilities.

So far, the SOFA problems have been neglected to some extent, over-shadowed by the pressing need to deal with the "biased" pact concerning the U.S. criminal suspects.

The agreement virtually enables civilian components and the their dependents to enter and depart the country with no limit if they carry appropriate documents issued by the U.S. authorities without undergoing formalities in accordance with the (Korean) Immigration Control Law, said Prof. Yi Chang-hui of the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

This is in sharp contrast with a pact between the U.S. and NATO treaty countries, requiring the families of military personnel to adhere to the relevant domestic laws without any preferential treatment, Yi said.

What is more problematic is that the U.S. military servicemen and their families' entry of materials, supplies and equipment are free from custom duties and other such charges. They only have to bring appropriate certifications issued by the USFK according to a provision of Article 9.

In NATO nations, they need to take necessary procedures as demanded on civilians through airports in general.

"In part, it is understandable to offer privileges to the USFK personnel and their dependents taking into account the specific security situation and the urgent need for joint defense," said Yi.

"But what matters is that the SOFA acknowledges too many favors and exceptions," he added.

Some military personnel and their families are suspected of engaging in smuggling, thus disturbing local market order in Korea, taking advantage of loopholes in our tax system, an official of the National Campaign for Eradication of Crime by U.S. Troops in Korea alleged yesterday. "Some USFK personnel carry in goods like electric appliances from Japan and Hong Kong for commercial purposes after spending holidays there," he alleged.

Prof. Yi also claims the U.S. military and convenience facilities located outside military camps should controlled under the relevant regulations and laws of Korea.

Some radical activists even go so far as to argue that the United States should pay for the USFK's use of facilities in Korea.

The Defense Ministry maintains a cautious attitude on their demand, saying, "The matter should be considered seriously."

"We need pay heed of the specific security situation," a ministry official in charge of U.S. relations said.

But he emphasized the need to revise the SOFA as far as the matter of dealing with the U.S. criminal suspects is concerned. "The agreement should be developed in a desirable direction," he said.

The Foreign Ministry also recognizes the necessity to rewrite the SOFA in relation with judiciary rights. "What needs review in the SOFA is the one related to jurisdiction," he said.

"But it does not necessarily mean that we will start negotiation right now," he added.

U.S. Firms To Soon Sell Cars in Installments

SK1905065994 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
19 May 94 p 1

[By Hong Son-kun]

[Text] It has been learned on 18 May that the government has decided to allow U.S. motor companies to establish joint ventures for financing installments sales in the ROK within this year. Accordingly, U.S. motor companies, including Ford, will be able to sell cars in installments through their own financing companies from 1995.

The government policy is a partial acceptance of U.S. pressure to allow U.S. companies to establish installments financing companies on the grounds that not allowing the participation of U.S. companies in the establishment of domestic installments financing companies is discriminatory and a violation of the provision requiring foreign companies to be given equal treatment as domestic companies. The government previously decided to allow ROK companies to establish installments financing companies in the first half of this year.

A relevant government official revealed that as the U.S. demand has emerged as a core subject of the trade dispute between the two countries, the government has decided to partially accept the U.S. position by allowing the establishment of installments financing companies by ROK companies first and later by U.S. companies after a certain period. The ROK Government notified the U.S. Government of the policy towards the end of April in trade talks.

The official said, however, that the government policy would not allow for 100-percent ownership by U.S. companies, but only investment amounting to 49 percent in a joint venture with ROK companies.

Ford Motors has reportedly led the demand for the establishment of installments financing companies in the ROK by U.S. companies.

Trade Agency Files Complaint Against Goodyear
SK1905080094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0732 GMT
 19 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—The Fair Trade Commission is investigating a Korean sales agency's complaint of unfair business practices against the U.S.-based multinational rubber and tire firm, Goodyear.

The government agency under the Economic Planning Board, whose ruling carries binding force, will announce a decision by the end of this month.

Pusan-based Daeyang Corp. filed a complaint against Goodyear Korea last February, charging the American company with ceasing to supply goods after the former refused to pay a large honorarium and unilaterally breaking off their contract.

According to Daeyang's statement, Goodyear Korea demanded 50 million won for letting the provincial company open sales outlets in Pusan and South Kyongsan Province.

When it refused, Goodyear stopped supplying products and terminated its contract with Daeyang.

Goodyear Korea flatly denied Daeyang's charges, saying the demand for an honorarium concerned just one of its salesmen who has already been sacked over the matter.

It explained that Daeyang had failed to submit orders and present a business blueprint, a requirement under the contract, as reasons for breaking ties.

The rights and wrongs will be determined by the Fair Trade Commission later in the month, but industry observers say the case sends a warning to Korean businesses vying to sell foreign brands.

North Korean Logger Seeks Asylum in South
SK2005101194 Seoul YONHAP in English 1003 GMT
 20 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—A North Korean logger smuggled himself to South Korea on Friday after escaping from a North Korea-run logging yard in Siberia, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) reported. NSP said the man, identified only as Chang Il-un, age 30, sought an asylum in the South on arrival at the Incheon harbor aboard a foreign freighter which he boarded clandestinely. NSP did not say where he got on board the ship. The agency was looking into the background leading to his coming to South Korea.

Daily Examines Repatriation of Loggers
SK1905131094 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
 19 May 94 p 2

[Article by Pak Chong-mun]

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 May, five North Korean loggers arrived in the ROK for the first time since the government decided to accept North Korean loggers

escaping from North Korean logging camps in Siberia from a humanitarian standpoint.

We cannot deny the fact that our government's diplomatic efforts and public opinion calling for quick action for our fellow countrymen were important factors in their arrival in the ROK.

All facts surrounding the defection of the five North Koreans, including Mr. Choe Chong-nam, have been kept secret. Therefore, it has been pointed out that intelligence agencies may have been involved in this case to an excessive degree.

The government stated they defected to the ROK through legitimate procedures. Still, it has kept everything secret merely at the requests of countries involved. The reasonableness of this secrecy has been questioned.

The government stated it would arrange a news conference with the five defectors when a proper method is agreed upon.

It has been learned that the five loggers have not received the right of residence or Russian citizenship, which Russia gives to loggers who flee their camps. Therefore, it is believed that, as a result of our government's diplomatic efforts, they received travel permits from Russia, Kazakhstan, or any other country where they had stayed and came to the ROK through a third country.

This method is completely different from the way the ROK proposed to Russia: We proposed that the loggers be repatriated to the ROK through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Russia's proposal that Russia and the ROK independently resolve this issue through bilateral negotiations has been implemented. It is very burdensome to the ROK and Russia to have bilateral negotiations to settle this issue.

North Korea has shown great resistance several times to the South's Government alleged policy of accepting the loggers as defectors, saying: "If they take loggers to the South, we will regard it as kidnapping." It has been learned that North Korea has also called on Russia, on the basis of the treaty on cooperation in judiciary matters, to apprehend some 40 escaped loggers. The fact that the government has accepted five loggers immediately after it has made a decision gives the impression it has been excessively hasty to show off its achievements. There are some circles calling for self-examination as to whether the government paid a cost that we would not have had to pay if the matter was handled in a reasonable way.

In fact, the government has not mapped out any practical measures for procedures to smoothly accept and settle North Korean loggers in our country. Discussions have been made on whether to provide them with 40 million to 50 million won per person for resettlement by applying the 'Law on Protecting North Korean Compatriots Who Have Defected to the South'; whether to enact a new law; or how to give them vocational training. No decision has yet been made. So far, about 600 people

have defected from North Korea for resettlement in the South. It has been learned that in some cases, they have not received resettlement funds due to lack of money, or in many cases, they have become 'aliens' because they have failed to readjust.

In view of this situation, some circles point out that instead of accepting North Korean loggers without prior arrangements, it is necessary to make swift preparations for them to help them adjust to a new free world and to live a life worthy of a human being.

* PRC Message Center for Koreans Planned

[Editorial Report] The Seoul weekly SISA JOURNAL, in its 28 April edition on page 6 reported that the KILLIM SINMUN, a Korean-language newspaper published in Jilin, PRC, will become a message center for separated Korean families worldwide including both Koreas. The center could be operating as early as late May.

This three-times-a-week, eight page newspaper's main audience is the Jilin-area Korean-Chinese. However, it is read throughout China and reaches North and South Korea, Russia, Japan, the United States, and Canada.

This will be the third phase of the "Search for Separated Family Members" movement. The first was sponsored by the Korea Broadcasting System in the early 1980's, mainly for families in South Korea. The second was carried out by a private citizen dedicated to finding family members in South Korea and China. This effort, started in 1984, resolved nearly 2,700 cases. Although the KILLIM SINMUN-sponsored third phase will search worldwide, its main target is helping the thousands of separated North and South Koreans to find each other and exchange letters with families.

This movement was initiated by the chief of the RENMIN RIBAO's Seoul Bureau, Pyon Yong-u, who is also KILLIM SINMUN's special correspondent in Seoul. Pyon had hoped an opening before May, but that wasn't possible because of the frozen relationship between the two Koreas.

According to the SISA article, North Korea's reaction over Seoul's open criticism of North Korea's human rights stance and the Siberian loggers issue could delay things, but Pyon is optimistic. He is counting on Pyongyang's inability to stop KILLIM SINMUN from reaching North Koreans because of North Korea's relationship with China. Pyon plans to work closely with Cho Yong-sik, chairman of the Separated Families Reunion Promotion Committee in Seoul.

Notices for missing family members will be published as classified advertisements and costs will be paid by the sponsors. However, the names of sponsoring companies or individuals and the addresses of the families seeking missing members will not be printed as a precaution against possible harm to North Korean families by the Pyongyang government. Pyon told SISA that he hoped this effort would speed reunification.

Plans Drawn Up To Build N-S Traffic Link

SK2005111994 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
20 May 94 p 2

[Text] The ROK Government has mapped a plan to build a North-South expressway network linking Seoul and Pyongyang and Seoul and Wonsan in preparations for the North-South reunification. The plan calls for building an East-West express railway linking Seoul and Chongjin via Chongnyang-ri, Chunchon, Mt. Sorak, and Mt. Kumgang. The government reported this plan to the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] on 19 May.

The "three-stage plan on building traffic networks in preparations for reunification" the government reported to the party that day calls for linking the severed roads and railways between Seoul and the DMZ in the first stage; building roads and railways in preparation for the North-South exchange of materials in the second stage; and building high-speed roads and railways after reunification in the third stage.

The government and the DLP plan to hold joint meetings soon and discuss how to raise funds and other matters for building roads and railways linking the North and South.

The first stage of this plan calls for renovating the National Road No. 1 linking Seoul and Panmunjom via Munsan as a preliminary step toward linking Seoul and Pyongyang. It also calls for expanding National Road No. 39 linking Seoul and Panmunjom via Pyokche, as a detour to Panmunjom.

As a preliminary step toward building a Seoul-Wonsan line, it calls for expanding National Road No. 3 linking Seoul and Chorwon via Tongduchon and Yonchon and National Road No. 43 linking Seoul and Kimhwa via Pochon and Chorwon from two-lane roads to four-lane roads.

As for the railway system, the plan calls for restoring the Munsan-Panmunjom line to link Seoul and Sinuiju.

The second stage of the plan on building Seoul-Pyongyang links calls for expanding the Seoul-Kaesong road to a six-lane expressway and link this road to Seoul's outer beltway. It also calls for extending the Freedom Road to link Seoul and Pyongyang via Koyang, Munsan, and Kaesong.

As for the Seoul-Wonsan road line, the plan calls for linking Seoul and Wonsan via Tongduchon, Yonchon, Chorwon, and Pyonggang. It also calls for extending National Road No. 43 to link Seoul and Pyonggang via Pochon, Chorwon, and Kimhwa.

As for the railway system for the second stage, the plan calls for expanding the Seoul-Sinuiju Line to a double-track line or a quadruple-track line. The first two-track line for an electric train will link Seoul and Panmunjom via Munsan, and the second two-track line for an ordinary train will link Seoul and Pyongyang via Munsan, Panmunjom, and Kaesong.

The plan also calls for expanding the Seoul-Wonsan railway line to a double-track line or a quadruple-track line. The first two-track line for an electric train will link Seoul and Chorwon via Uijongbu, and the second two-track line for an ordinary train will link Seoul and Pyonggang via Uijongbu and Panmunjom.

The plan also calls for building an East-West electric railway line for tourists. This line will link Seoul and Mt. Kumgang via Chunchon and Mt. Sorak.

The third stage of the plan calls for building a six-lane expressway linking Seoul and Nampo via Kimpo, Kanghwa, and Haeju. It also calls for expanding the four-lane National Road No. 3 to a six-lane expressway to link Seoul and Chongjin via Tongduchon, Yonchon, Chorwon, and Wonsan.

As for the railway system, the plan calls for renovating the Seoul-Sinuiju railway line into a high-speed railway line and connect it to the Seoul-Pusan high-speed rail system. Then, Pusan and Sinuiju will be linked via Taegu, Taejon, Seoul, Pulgwang, Munsan, Kaesong, and Pyongyang.

The Seoul-Wonsan railway line will link Seoul and Wonsan via Uijongbu, Panmunjom, and Pyonggang. And the East-West high-speed railway line will link Seoul and Chongjin via Chongnyang-ri, Chunchon, Mt. Sorak, Mt. Paektu, and Wonsan.

Defector Comments on DPRK Economic Situation

SK2005060894 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean

20 May 94 p 2

[Article by North Korean affairs desk reporter Kim Hyon-ho, entitled "You Are Indeed Ignorant" from the Reporter's Memobook]

[Text] "You reporters are indeed ignorant." This is a rebuke often made by the wife of Mr. Yo Man-chol [former North Korean worker who recently defected to the ROK with his family] to reporters. We met with Mrs. Yi Ok-kum, Mr. Yo Man-chol's wife, for a total of 15 hours over four times in order to cover the story about her life in North Korea. Mrs. Yi, who merely answered reporters' questions at first, gradually took a more positive attitude. This was partly because we became intimate with each other as time passed. However, it is more likely that she was impatient at reporters "ignorance" on the North Korean situation.

Her story was that she eked out a living only with boiled bean and gruel, and that no other clothes but uniforms were supplied to children only once every three years. Moreover, they wear the same trousers during summer and winter. They must continue wearing socks even after holes are made and by darning the holes. She noted that the price of a pair of nylon socks is as much as the amount of her husband's monthly salary. Toilets even in a large city were made by burying a drum can underground, and women dig up night soil from it and carry it to farms on a handcart.

She made this remarks with a sigh one time and in an angry voice the other. Thus, the life of ordinary North Korean people is hard to believe for ordinary South Korean people.

Not only one or two pieces of "material evidence" proved her statement true. This evidence includes her fingernails that are growing again after being taken out due to malnutrition; traces of pellagra (a disease known to be caused by malnutrition which is often seen among the native Mexican people who live on corn) that was still left in her arm; and her monologue that the mothers of Pok-hwa and Kum-sil, who were her children's classmates, showed the same symptoms.

What makes it an issue is how the "compatriots" in the South accept this enormous "tragic drama" that the North Korean residents are suffering. Some people even think that providing information on the real miserable situation in North Korea itself is an outdated anticommunist education program, or that "North Korea is poor. We all know this. How come this is worthy of news?" However, in most cases, those who make such remarks have less concrete knowledge on the real situation in North Korea. Their true intention is indifference. What is even more fearful is that some people feel "concealed pleasure" by looking at the pains of North Korean residents. In other words, there certainly are some people who feel strange pleasure, stating that "look at what the communists and Kim Il-song have done! This is exactly an outcome of what they did." The extreme situation that the North Korean residents are suffering today should not be subject to ignorance, indifference, and personal pleasure. This problem will come to us as our own problem one day, and this cannot be resolved without the will to share their pains.

Food, Hard Currency Shortages Suspected in DPRK

SK1905070894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0555 GMT

19 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—North Korea seems to have stopped sending teams to international athletic events this year due to severe food and foreign currency shortages, a government official here observed Thursday.

The official disclosed that Pyongyang has not taken part in any international athletic meetings this year. "Almost 10 international sports events have been held this year and it should have participated in at least seven, but it did not send any team," he said.

He went on to say that North Korea did not send a team to the Winter Olympics held last February in Lillehammer, Norway. "North Korea applied for entry to the 11th Asia-Pacific Junior Ice Hockey Tournament held in Beijing last March, but it gave notification that it would not attend at the last minute, he said.

"The deepening food and foreign currency shortages in North Korea are believed to be major reasons not to send its representative teams to athletic events overseas," he said.

Last year, North Korea dispatched teams to more than 30 international events including the 16th Winter Universiad held in Poland, he added.

Papers Comment on DPRK's Economic Difficulties

SK2005120894

[Editorial Report] ROK vernacular newspapers publish editorials and articles on 20 May in reaction to recent reports on North Korea's food shortage and economic difficulties.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO publishes on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "North Korea is Hungry." The editorial writes North Korea's economic crisis is becoming more apparent citing the defection of the Yo Man-chol family and North Korean loggers from Russia, Kim Il-song's request to an Indian provincial governor for emergency food aid, and the news that North Korea is not participating in the Hiroshima Asian Games.

The editorial comments that "although South Koreans undoubtedly want to help compatriots when they even send aid to Somalia, some people are concerned that the aid may only help the Kim Il-song regime." Therefore, the editorial asserts that "North Korea should convince the South that economic support will benefit the people, not the party or the Army, by resolving the nuclear issue as soon as possible."

Stressing that chaos in North Korea is not desired either by the South, the editorial urges the North to withdraw the confrontation policy and reconstruct the economy.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,000-word article by reporter Yu Sung-u analyzing the background of Kim Il-song's request of food aid to India. Recapitulating North Korea's decreased crops since the eighties, the article stresses that the question is whether North Korea's system can endure the food shortage.

The article cites an intelligence report stating that "North Korea began to release reserve grain" and a contrasting analysis that "North Korea is trying to secure enough food to prepare for international and UN economic sanctions." The analysis notes the fact that North Korea recently purchased low-quality rice from Thailand but resold it to European countries and thus, the food shortage is not so serious as to bring about a collapse of North Korea's establishment.

Noting that the critical period will be before the corn harvest in July and August this year, the article concludes that we still have to wait and see if the slogan "Rice is communism" will be paradoxically proven by the collapse of the system due to food shortage.

HANGUK ILBO publishes on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Grievous Situation of North Korea." Listing the series of recent incidents proving the economic difficulties, the editorial deplores that Kim Il-song and his son are still playing the nuclear game.

The editorial warns that if the diversion of nuclear material is proven by the International Atomic Energy Agency's ongoing inspection, the UN Security Council will impose economic sanctions worsening the situation. The editorial ends by urging Kim Il-song to provide nuclear transparency as soon as possible to save his establishment as well as his people.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "The North Korean Nuclear Issue and its Food Crisis." Referring to North Korea's food shortage as a result of North Korea's own style socialist economic system and to North Korean defectors' remarks on the food crisis there, the editorial says, "North Korean President Kim Il-song's request for food aid and medicine from India shows that the North Korean food situation has reached a serious point."

Referring to North Korea's decreased crops since the nineties and to South Korea's data on its worse crop production last year, the editorial says, "North Korea says its food shortage is due to cold weather and harmful insects, but the major factor is its collective farming method. It is certain that if North Korea continues to maintain the collective system, its agricultural production will not be increased any more in the future."

Noting the North Korean Government's commitment that it will make its people eat rice with meat soup, the editorial says that if North Korea really wants to resolve the issue, it must remove a wall of closure and join the international community to seek a way for coexistence with others.

Referring to North Korea's decision not to participate in the Hiroshima Asian Games, the editorial says that "this clearly shows that North Korea faces serious food shortage problems." Also, the editorial says, "if North Korea abandons its nuclear program and accepts the denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, it can receive food and economic aid from South Korea and other Western countries. North Korea should no longer adhere to the nuclear development program, but return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Also it should solve the people's clothing, food, and house problems first."

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "North Korea's Increasing Food Shortage Problems Show an Ominous Sign." Referring to North Korea's serious current situation caused by its food shortage and lack of foreign currency, the editorial says, "South Korea must be prudent in dealing with North Korea's situation, while making efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue."

Referring to the major background of North Korea's failure in its agricultural policy and to its lack of foreign

currency, the editorial says that South Korea can provide grain aid to North Korea if the nuclear issue is resolved as was done in 1991. Predicting the bleak prospect of North Korea's grain production for next year and noting the need for the ROK Government to consider providing food aid to North Korea in the future when North Korea abandons its nuclear development program, the editorial then added, "the food shortage situation is not only serious to the North Korean Government, but also to us. It is highly possible that whether we want or not, North Korea may collapse suddenly. Therefore, we must be thoroughly alert to North Korea's possible provocation to plunder rice and oil from Seoul."

Russians Pull Out of Joint Economic Meeting

SK2005084294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—Some last-minute wavering by Moscow in its decision to send a delegation to the first meeting of the South Korea-Russian joint economic committee has thrown Seoul officials into utter confusion. The meeting was to open in Seoul Friday but less than 24 hours before the delegates planned to get started, the Russian Government told Seoul it could not send a delegation because of unspecified domestic reasons.

Moscow then revised its decision and told Seoul it would send a delegation under a different leader. It changed its mind again a short while later, however, saying it wouldn't send a delegation after all.

Senior Korean Government officials were reportedly stunned after receiving the first notice, because the meeting was scheduled to be held as they were preparing for President Kim Yong-sam's state visit to Russia. The Korean officials heaved a collective sigh of relief when they received the second message, only to be thrown into confusion again a few hours later.

After receiving the first message from Moscow, which said it could not send a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, the Foreign Ministry even made an official announcement to that effect. But the Russian Embassy in Seoul asked the ministry to describe it not as "a cancellation" but as "a suspension," saying it would provide further information two to three hours later.

At 8 P.M. Thursday, the Russian side informed the ministry that it would send a delegation led not by Shokhin but by another deputy prime minister. Then three hours later at 11 P.M., the Russian Embassy told the ministry that no delegation would be coming to Seoul after all.

Shortly afterward, the Russian Government phoned the Korean Embassy in Moscow and proposed to hold an unofficial committee meeting for two days in the Russian capital from May 30. But the Korean side has

decided that it would be meaningless to hold such a meeting only a day before President Kim is scheduled to start his visit to Russia.

On Friday, Korean Government officials were unable to find out what those "domestic conditions" were. The most plausible reason put forward by Korean officials appears to be "the political realignment which is taking place in Moscow right now," according to sources.

Joint Research on Russian Technology Proposed

SK1905081294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0740 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will propose joint research to industrialize Russia's advanced technology in the machinery, materials and aircraft fields as well as making better use of scientific brainpower over the long term.

While demanding overdue payment of 7 million U.S. dollars for Korean exports, Seoul is considering letting Moscow pay in resources to make up for its lack of cash.

The government wants to construct an exclusive port for Korean vessels in Vostochnyy near Vladivostok and is also seeking to use a harbor in the nearby Tuman (Tumen) River.

It will present its wish list at the first Korea-Russia Economic Cooperation Committee meeting, slated to run two days beginning Friday in Seoul.

Korea will negotiate to set up a research base in Russia and study the former Soviet republic's latest technologies as well as pursue joint research.

It will mull joining hands with foreign companies to explore Russia's vast resources while encouraging local firms to form consortiums to take part in resource development. The government will offer support by putting up funds.

Korea will seek Russia's cooperation on the resumption of fishing in the Okhotsk sea with a catch quota of 300,000 tons of pollack in the upcoming talks.

They will also discuss laying optical submarine cables linking Korea, Russia and Japan, and possibly inviting North Korea to take part in the project.

ROK, PRC Economic Planners Discuss Cooperation

SK1905092494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—The vice economic planning ministers of Korea and China met for a second round Thursday [19 May] to press for bilateral economic cooperation.

In the meeting held at the government building in Kwachon, Han Yi-hon and his Chinese counterpart Ye Qing discussed early implementation of follow-ups to

economic cooperation projects agreed on during President Kim Yong-sam's state visit to China earlier this year.

In addition, they agreed to expand information exchanges on pending economic issues and policy management in order to improve bilateral economic cooperation in a forward-looking manner. They also decided on early implementation of industrial cooperation accords in such fields as automobiles, time division exchange (TDX) and airplanes. The vice ministers plan to meet for a third round in Beijing in the near future.

The visiting Chinese official and his party are scheduled to visit the ministers of construction, science and technology, and communications beginning Friday.

Defense Ministry Deregulates 'Protection Areas'
SK2005020494 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
20 May 94 p 1

[Text] Almost half a million acres of military installation protection areas will be decontrolled to the maximum allowable extent from next month in a significant move to make way for regional development.

Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae announced in a press conference yesterday that 433,335 acres (535 million pyong), amounting to 20 percent of the total privately-owned land in direct use or under control of the armed forces, will either be decontrolled or deregulated to a large extent. He said the measure, due to take effect June 1, is being initiated after a full year of consultations with related government agencies and political parties. The total area is far in excess of the 283,500 acres of protected regions which have been decontrolled since 1973.

"The decision to decontrol the protected area is in line with a directive from President Kim Yong-sam to provide greater convenience to residents in affected areas and to contribute to national economic development," he said.

The areas to be decontrolled are concentrated in the northern parts of Kyonggi-to and Kangwon-to and include regions located close to the metropolitan area and Incheon, the minister explained. The affected areas include land in Pochon, Ilsan and Koyang, all in Kyonggi-to, and Hwachon, Kangwon-to.

In addition, he said, areas near the Civilian Access Control Line which have been opened to group tours by civilians and recreational activities will be reclassified and downgraded from "controlled" to "limited."

Minister Yi noted that the measure effectively means that regulations pertaining to construction and rehabilitation of existing facilities will be eased to open the way for brisk development.

"Certain military facilities along the coastal areas will also be transferred to the Navy, making it simpler for construction projects to be approved," he added.

Yi went on to say that the draft revision to the Military Installation Protection Law has been put on public notice and will go into effect June 1.

Once the revision is in place, owners, who have for long been virtually prohibited from exercising their right on their real estate holdings, will be able to utilize their land for urban development and agricultural activities. However, he said, strict measures will also be implemented to ensure that the decontrolling of the area will not lend its hand to encouraging real estate speculation.

"The Construction Ministry is prepared to deliberate carefully on each of the applications and only those who are judged to be sincerely interested in developing the areas will be given approvals," he said. He elaborated that all those found to be violating related regulations and filing false applications will face criminal charges and be prosecuted to the maximum limit.

Autonomous groups such as city and provincial administrations will also establish special task forces to crack down on people suspected of engaging in real estate speculation and subject them to tax audits, he said.

Report Provides Figures on Demonstrations
SK1905044894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT
19 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 19 (YONHAP)—Street demonstrations during the first four months of this year nearly doubled compared with the same period last year due to political issues such as the opening of the country's rice market and the Sangmudae scandal, according to the prosecution.

Reports released by the Prosecutor General's Office Thursday said that 2,774 street demonstrations were staged from January to April this year compared with 1,578 during the same period last year.

The number of people taking to the streets in the four-month period this year reached 814,900 while 537,100 Koreans participated in street demonstrations during the same period last year, according to the reports.

Student demonstrations topped the list this year with 1,590 cases involving 432,200 students, followed by 772 protests by 249,300 people calling for settlement of such grievances as establishment of a garbage dump in their region, the reports said.

More than 130,000 people took part in various peace marches on 393 occasions during the first four months of this year while labor-management disputes triggered 19 street demonstrations by 25,000 workers in the same period, according to the reports.

The number of violent demonstrations involving wooden sticks and steel pipes increased to 41 this year compared with last year's eight. The number involving stone-hurling also climbed to 39 this year from eight a year ago, the prosecution reports said.

The only exceptions to the increase in violent demonstrations were those involving firebombs. Students hurled only 40 firebombs on three occasions this year, a drastic reduction from last year's 900 firebombs thrown during five demonstrations, according to the prosecution, which attributed the decrease to the public's unfavorable view toward use of firebombs by student activists.

On 21 occasions this year, demonstrators seized railways and roads while 14 demonstrations involved attacks on public buildings and facilities. The numbers contrast sharply with those of last year, eight and two, respectively, according to the prosecution.

Political issues including the Uruguay Round trade negotiations and the Sangmudae scandal contributed to the sharp increase in demonstrations this year compared with last year, when people found few political issues to protest amid the Kim Yong-sam administration's reform drive involving far-reaching probes of wrongdoings and irregularities under past administrations, said a prosecution spokesman.

Finance Ministry To Revise Investment Law

SK2005050194 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 May 94 p 9

[Text] Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong said yesterday that the government will revise a law governing foreign direct investment (FDI) this year to modernize and internationalize rules for FDI system. He said the revision of the Foreign Capital Inducement Act (FCIA) will be made in this autumn's National Assembly session.

Through the FCIA revision, the government hopes to eliminate or ease rules that hindered the FDI inflow.

Many expatriate businessmen have criticized the act for being too restrictive toward foreign investors.

The act, which was passed in 1966, was revised eight times in the past but has been criticized as being revised piecemeal and mostly under foreign pressure. This time, the government seeks to rewrite the act "voluntarily" to be more friendly to foreign businessmen, a Ministry of Finance official said.

The minister acknowledged that despite efforts, Korea could not make drastic improvements for foreign businessmen due to "domestic-oriented factors." But Korea can no longer delay its plan to improve the FDI climate.

Minister Hong said Korea should improve its foreign direct investment system to levels prevailing in Western OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries.

Scientists Develop First Satellite Transponder

SK2005105094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 20 (YONHAP)—A South Korean university science team has developed the country's first

satellite transponder and the world's seventh after such nations as the United States, Japan and France.

After nearly four years of research and financial aid of 500 million won from the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry, an electronic engineering department team at Kwangun University led by Prof. Na Kuk-hwan said Friday it has developed a satellite transponder for broadcasting on the tricky Ku frequency band.

Industry sources say a Ku-band transponder is designed to operate in space for more than 10 years and can be installed in a satellite anytime for satellite broadcasting as well as communications.

"We will be able to install Korean-made transponders in satellites and save some 800 million won for every unit in doing so," Na said. He said the transponder can be widely applied in satellite receivers, ground stations and cellular facilities for satellite broadcasting. Na's development will be awarded the top prize in the government-sponsored industry-academy-research cooperation.

***Articles Discuss Political Reform Developments**

942C0097A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 Mar 94

[Article in seven installments: "Winds of Political Reform"]

*** National Assembly Passes Reform Bills**

[First installment of the "Winds of Political Reform" appearing in the 5 March issue on page 3: By reporter Kim Tong-chol]

[Text] With the completion of political-reform legislation, Korean politics have reached a great turning point. In this article, we examine the question of whether the integrated election law, the Local Autonomy Law, and the Political Funding Law, created aiming for a new political climate of "clean politics" and "elections that do not take money," can actually recreate Korean political culture, the blueprint presented by political-reform legislation, and concrete problems associated with putting the legislation into action.

Will "elections that do not take money" and "clean politics" actually be realized?

The three pieces of legislation (Public Election and Election-Irregularities Prevention Law, Political Funding Law, and Local Autonomy Law) passed in the Assembly plenary session have various institutional mechanisms for the realization of clean politics.

An integrated election law, the Public Election and Election-Irregularities Prevention Law, in particular has many more new provisions regulating money-corrupted elections than any of the succession of election laws before it. When viewed only as a legal statute, it provides for the realization of elections that do not take money, the foundation of clean politics.

First of all, it limits to a great extent various kinds of election expenses. In the case of a National Assembly election, it set a limit of an average of 65 million won [W]. It in fact abolished the salaried-election-campaign-worker system, pointed out as the main culprit behind overheated, corrupt elections, and changed election campaigns to make them volunteer-service oriented.

Also, it prohibited party-unity rallies and the street distribution of small-sized, leaflet-type printed material during the campaign period, both of which have caused trouble every election. Instead, the Central Election Management Committee [CEMC] reduced the burden of personnel expenses resulting from distribution by forwarding to each household the small-sized printed material of each candidate.

To this was added the strengthening of institutional regulation so that such mechanisms for the minimization of election expenses could be effective.

In the past, each candidate reported election expenses to the CEMC as a total amount after an election. In the future, however, receipt and payment of money must be done only through a deposit account and expenses must be recorded in detail as follows and presented to the CEMC:

- date and time,
- location,
- person receiving money,
- address, and
- resident registration number.

It also authorized the publication of election-expense details and the viewing of these by opposing candidates and voters. It made it possible for the CEMC, when there are suspicions of misconduct, to request materials from the appropriate financial institution, despite the financial real-name system emergency order.

Additionally, it strengthened penal regulations. For cases in which a fine of W1 million and above or a suspended prison sentence and five years and above is given for election-law violations, a ten-year restriction is placed on the violator's right to hold a public-service leadership position. Also, the range of joint responsibility resulting in election annulment was expanded to include election officials, persons in charge of accounts, spouses, and even direct descendants. Therefore, if exposed in connection with illegal, corrupt election campaigning, not only will a person be driven from public office, but it is as plain as day that he or she will end up ruining his or her self and family.

"It is a law strong enough to have the effect of a guillotine on candidates," explains one person associated with the Special Political Committee.

The problem, however, is dependent on how reality supports the ideals of this law. The fact is, few people believe past election practices, described as unjust, corrupt, and excessive, will disappear with just a revision of the law. As always, illicit exchanges of gifts and money

will not disappear from the election process. Some even foresee that the tricks used will become more sophisticated.

Even the lawmakers who passed the politics-related laws confess that it leans too much toward the "idealistic," hinting at the difficulties which lie ahead until the purpose of the legislation is actually fulfilled. There are actually many among lawmakers of the opinion that "It is a fantasy law, made by those bewitched by ideals."

That is, it is pointed out, as voter awareness and the mood of society are not changing, it is excessively ambitious to try to realize clean politics by creating laws based on the election laws of the United Kingdom, a politically advanced country.

On the premise, "The three main elements of an election are organization, funding, and personality," one ruling-party lawmaker asserted, "It is too much to expect us to carry out an election with organization and funding cut off."

In short, for the forces with vested interests, the disposal of this politics-related legislation was definitely unwellcome. However, despite the negative perspective of some, there are many more of the opinion that the "will for clean politics" contained in these election laws should be rated highly and definitely must be realized. It is as plain as day that, if for nothing else than to clear up the public's deep distrust and cynicism toward the political world, politics must be cleaned up and that the first step must be election reform.

In this sense, assessing this disposal of politics-related legislation as "the greatest result of the civilian government's reform, a new milestone for the advancement of politics," the ruling party core is praising the integrated election law in the extreme, even using the term "revolution." That is, in spite of the fact that there were also mechanisms for clean elections in the previous succession of election laws, these were not supported by the will of the ruler to put them into action; thus they became dead letters. In consideration for this fact, the election laws passed this time were meant to suggest that the ruler's will and a strong enforcement of the laws will follow.

Together with the passage of the election laws, the fact that the local-autonomy elections to take place in the spring of next year are forecast by those in the periphery of politics to be the "slaughterhouse of violators" can be understood as a reading of the inner thoughts of the ruling-party leadership.

* Effects of Political Reform Law

[Second installment of the "Winds of Political Reform" appearing in the 6 March issue on page 3: By reporter Yi Chae-ho]

[Text] In response to a question on 5 March asking about the future influence of the new politics-related legislation

on the political domain, Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Secretary General Mun Chong-su said this instead of answering.

"Now we have no choice but to run with our feet. There's nothing else we can do. Even so, at least we are a little better off..."

His words, "We are a little better off," seemed to be permeated with the confidence of the old Democratic Party [DP] faction within the ruling party of having long carried out elections from a position of financial and organizational inferiority. Does this then mean that the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] faction has been put at a relative disadvantage?

The new politics-related laws have content which will bring change to politics worthy to be called a revolution. They severely restrict money and organizations, and free up speech. With money and organizations restricted, the form of elections cannot help but change. As a result, this can lead to a change of the political class and structure.

With the establishment of the new election laws, Mr. Y (41), who has been an aid to members of the National Assembly for over ten years, made up his mind to run for office in the 15th General Election. His constituency is K-ku [as published], with a population of over 80,000. According to the new laws, he must prepare about W600,000 in campaign funds. Money having been his greatest worry, there is now no longer a reason for him to hesitate. An "election that does not take money" offers him an unparalleled opportunity. This is because, first of all, the entrance fee into the political arena for newcomers has dropped.

"It is a fact that political newcomers are now in a favorable position for challenging the establishment," said DLP lawmaker Choe Pyong-ryol. Will not the young, conscientious people of local society, who had avoided running because of fear of money and the established organization of the ruling party, think of trying at least once, he asks. If only the laws are enforced, the merit of money and financial power will disappear, he said.

DP lawmaker Yi Chol made a similar prediction. "Although, due to the continued existence of government organizations, it cannot be said that the organizational advantages which the ruling party has enjoyed in successive elections have completely disappeared, there will at least be a change in the aspects of elections which had been decided by money," he said.

If opportunities are broadened for political newcomers, it could become that much more difficult for those with vested political power to defend their positions. If the utility of money and organization disappears, character, achievements, name recognition, novelty, and morality will become more important variables. The prediction that a change of personnel will be brought about in the political arena due to the new laws is based on this.

In its recent selection of chief organizers for 14 problem local party chapters, the DLP excluded "financial power" from its list of qualifications examined for each candidate. Thus, an item has been dropped which until now has been considered important, in examinations for party nomination of parliamentary candidates, by Korea's conservative political parties, regardless of whether they were ruling or opposition parties. Secretary General Mun said, "In the future, there will have to be a revolutionary change in the selection standards of candidates for public office."

The DLP plans to first begin putting things in order with 30 weak local chapters and increase this as the election draws near.

Since the time they came out last year, some lawmakers within the DLP have taken the new election laws as a sign that personnel changes were going to take place.

Change is unavoidable in the opposition parties as well. It is still difficult to determine what changes will come to districts with deep-rooted, "incumbants-first" traditions. However, if "elections that do not take money" are brought about properly, at least the opposition parties will have no justification for selling nominations for candidacy to run for the nationwide constituencies in order to provide for campaign funds. Until now, one of the most important justifications opposition parties have had for selling ahead of time national-constituency seats has been "for the party to provide campaign funds for candidates with no money."

"Elections that do not take money" may also bring change to the traditional, factional politics of opposition parties. This is because if a candidate does not receive funding support from a faction boss, the need to form and maintain a servile relationship with the boss will become that much diminished.

The probability of a change of personnel through party nominations is predicted to be relatively lower for the opposition parties. "Despite the new laws, a hacking-style change of personnel is unlikely for our party due to involved human relationships unique to an opposition party," said a DP official. However, there are no opposition figures confident the opposition parties can continue to survive merely by maintaining these traditions.

Changing people through party nominations is a "top-down change of personnel." Traditionally, the range of these personnel changes has been broad for the ruling party and narrow for the opposition parties. Apparently, the political-reform legislation will be somewhat of a shock to this tradition. However, what is drawing more attention is the "bottom-up change of personnel." If the political-reform legislation brings change even to the political awareness of voters, the "bottom-up change of personnel" will be even more conspicuous.

If a political culture is established in which policy and vision have power instead of money and agitation, and voters respond to this or instigate it, as is the aim of the political-reform legislation, then personnel changes in

the political arena will come about more rapidly and broadly than is generally anticipated.

In an interview with a reporter asking for one thing most needed for political reform, a high-level figure of the ruling party said bluntly, "changing people." It was a pointed reference to the urgent need for a change of personnel. This time, this will of the political world even got the support of institutional reform. The results cannot help but be closely watched.

* Parties Face Major Changes

[Third installment of the "Winds of Political Reform" appearing in the 8 March issue on page 2: By reporter Chang Pyong-su]

[Text] The organization and structure of our country's political parties are huge compared to their normal operations. They have long suffered "chronic obesity."

In United States and other politically advanced nations, there are many cases in which local-party-chapter organization is practically non-existent. The few full-time workers of even party headquarters cannot be compared with those in Korea.

Why does this strange phenomenon continue to exist in years without elections, with its hundreds of paid party members watching the enormous central party building, even though they have little to do?

The Korean thinking that "a political party must have party influence, and for party influence it must have a very strong organization and a large number of personnel," has been pointed out as the main reason for this. Also, because of the climate in which one has to make one's face known around the party to have an advantage in party nominations, political hopefuls have crowded into the periphery of the party. Some even understand the inclusion of these people, not based on any general principle, to have resulted only in the growth of the organization.

It is inevitable that the political-reform legislation passed this time operate on this serious illness of our political arena.

First of all, in the case of the ruling party, with political funding having been greatly reduced, it has no choice but to greatly cut back personnel costs. With the creation of political funds more difficult due to the implementation of the financial real-name system, apart from organizational downsizing there is no other method available for doing this, it is explained.

Last year, the DLP brought in about W36.7 billion: a government subsidy of W8.48 billion, a designated trust fund of W19.9 billion, and party fees and support funding from the Party Supporters Association of W8.2 billion. However, party finances are left in the red when total expenditures are at W40.4 billion:

- operational expenses, including personnel expenses, W23.5 billion;

- organizational-activity expenses, W8.6 billion;
- policy expenses, W7.5 billion; and
- publicity expenses, W700 million.

Fortunately, the DLP last year sold the plot of its Karak-tong training institute, bringing in over W70 billion. With the interest it was able to make up its deficit. The DLP has about 780 salaried officials: over 300 clerical personnel at the central party headquarters and municipal and provincial branch offices; and 474 secretariat directors and organizational department directors at 237 local party chapters. A characteristic of the party is that, due to the aftereffects of the three-party merger, people from the three factions are "evenly" dispatched to be full-time personnel; hiring is not centered on ability or work.

Even apart from causes such as financial pressures, public opinion is growing for the entire political culture to be reformed. The DLP is considering "getting rid of the flab" in party operations from various angles.

In the central party, a proposal is being actively considered to leave a few committees, such as organization, policy, and public relations, but reduce the number full-time personnel as much as possible. There are also some who observe that local party chapters will move centered around an operations committee, with one full-time employee, and that the number chief organizers at the tong, t'ong, and pan [t'ong and pan are administrative subdivisions of a tong] level will be cut back on a large scale.

In the DP, persons are working who have long stood in the front lines of the struggle against dictatorship, in the "democracy-versus-anti-democracy" political framework of the past, making artificial reduction of the organization unlikely. Because of this, in the Supreme Representatives Council held on 7 March, all that was decided upon was the principle that in the next meeting of the Executive Committee the issue of forming a special committee for organizational strengthening would be discussed and party-organizational-reform proposals would be reviewed.

However, a large-scale reorganization of the system is unavoidable in order to cope with the new political environment, according to the analysis of the Party Policy Committee given through this day's policy report. "An improvement of the presently lax party operational structure and a reordering of the central party and local party chapters in keeping with the new law is urgently needed," the Policy Committee pointed out.

With 191 full-time personnel at its central-party office, the DP's expenditures totaled over W7.68 billion last year. It brought in a total of over W8.72 billion: a government subsidy of W6.72 billion and party fees of W1.63 billion [as published]. Its settlement of accounts ended in the black purely because of "stingy management," it insists.

The DP's policy-promotion expenses for last year were W83.2 million, less than 1 percent of its total expenses.

In keeping with the mood that now opposition parties too must seriously pursue policy development, policy-related expenses this year are predicted to increase tremendously so finance management will be as tight as always, says a party source.

Saying he thinks policy development to be the only way for the opposition party to survive in keeping with an era demanding new politics, DP Secretary General Kim Tok-kyu stressed that now the opposition party too would make considerable investment in the policy field.

There are many voices stating that a new party management is unavoidable for both ruling and opposition parties, and there many of the opinion that ultimately a climate will have to be created in which at election time party representatives directly select candidates for public office, as is the example of advanced countries. It is clear that only this bottom-up political reform is capable of uprooting the wrong practices of central politics.

Together with political-reform legislation, ruling and opposition parties are preparing for various future elections and promising to put things in order internally. This beginning will become a yardstick for measuring ahead of time "clean politics" in the 1995 local-government elections and in the 1996 general election.

* Reform Law's Flaws Outlined

[Fourth installment of the "Winds of Political Reform" appearing in the 9 March issue on page 2: By reporter Hong Un-taek]

[Text] Passed unanimously in the National Assembly on 4 March by both ruling- and opposition-party lawmakers, the three politics-related laws are in the spotlight for having prepared a framework for political reform. However, there are also shadows concealed by that light.

These shadows are cast by the inability of each of the negotiating parties, the ruling party, the opposition, and the Ministry of Home Affairs, to shake off their own interests. This is also something to watch carefully in the succeeding process of revision by the president, National Assembly regulations, and regional ordinances. In this integrated election law, the ruling and opposition parties charged the Electoral District Demarcation Committee [EDDC] with debating the issue of adjusting electoral districts, which had long been done arbitrarily. This is a step forward.

As a result of this, however, the right to adjust the electoral districts of local assemblymen is exercised as always by the National Assembly. This is self-contradictory. This makes possible the observation that, even while it is being claimed that local autonomy is being greatly expanded, the conception remains that local assemblies are agencies subordinate to the National Assembly.

The question of how to compose the National Assembly EDDC is not simple either. There is a great probability of conflict arising between the ruling and opposition

parties. This is because the local-district-adjustment issue is directly related to the political survival of individual lawmakers. Therefore, both ruling- and opposition-party lawmakers hope the EDDC will be composed in a way maximally beneficial to them. There is plenty of room for conflicting interests.

The EDDC may present a proposal to reduce local-district representatives to within the quota of 299 members for the National Assembly and increase the ratio of national-constituency representatives. That is how great its power will be.

The political trust-fund system continues to exist in the Revised Political Funding Law. This is a product of compromise. Even so, it was decided that the revised law would not make public the list of designated depositors, as is the case with the present law.

Although limited to less than W500 million, a designated trust fund is still a large amount of money. Not making the depositors public is inconsistent with the revision's purpose of raising the transparency of political funds.

In the Revised Local Autonomy Law, it was decided to give local assemblymen a monthly parliamentary-activities fee. Even so, it did not reduce the number of local assemblymen, which had been greatly increased on the assumption that they would be unpaid, honorary positions. This will put a great burden on local finances.

Local assemblymen number some 5,170 persons: wide-area, 866; basic, 4,304. As for monthly pay, in the future its upper limit will be fixed by presidential decree and concrete amounts will be fixed by local councils in ordinances. There will be cases in which assemblymen from local councils with insufficient finances will stubbornly demand salaries as large as those of assemblymen belonging to "rich" local councils.

In several places in the political-reform-related legislation is included the proviso, "limited to the first election after this law is put into effect."

First is the Public Election Law. If members of the National Assembly or of local assemblies would run for local council chief, they must resign from their present position 90 days before the election. However, there is a proviso that, limited to next year's 27 June election, all they have to do is resign from their present position before the candidate-registration application day.

This is the result of pressure by lawmakers desiring to become the local council chiefs, insisting that they must start their campaigns retaining their identities as lawmakers. Therefore, the time of resignation was put off "to give them sufficient time to carefully consider whether they will run for office."

Also, the Revised Local Autonomy Law set the status of deputy mayors, county deputy chiefs, and district office deputy directors as local government officials. Even so, it characterizes them as national government officials, but this is limited to the term of the mayors and county

chiefs selected next year. This difference in status brings a difference in the one with the power to appoint them. If the deputy chief of a local council is a local government official, then the chief of the local council is the one with the power to appoint him. If he is a national government official, then he is appointed by the central government.

Limited to those selected next year, the central government is supposed to appoint deputy mayors, etc. There is a reason for this. It was done out of consideration for Home Affairs bureaucrats who will lose their positions with city-county unification.

The local council deputy chief was characterized as a local government official in both the pre-revision law and in the revised law. It was the Ministry of Home Affairs which stubbornly insisted that, limited solely to persons selected next year, this should be made a national government position. Given this attitude of the Ministry of Home Affairs, there is even the possibility the class of the position of local council deputy chief will be adjusted upward to become a national-government position in the future. The classification of national-government positions is supposed to be set by presidential decree. Upward adjustment does not require the deliberation of the National Assembly.

That the law allows for there to be two local council deputy chiefs in 15 cities and provinces has potential to be a problem. Which cities and provinces can have two local council deputy chiefs is supposed to be set by presidential decree. The problem is the criterion.

For example, if having a population of 2 million is made the standard, will Taejon, Kwangju, and Cheju Province, which are excluded from this, do nothing? Does this then mean it would be okay to have two local council deputy chiefs in each city and province?

* Reform Said To Benefit Opposition

[Fifth installment of the "Winds of Political Reform" appearing in the 10 March issue on page 2: By reporter Kim Chang-hyok]

[Text] On 4 March, the day the "Public Election and Election-Irregularities Prevention Bill" passed the National Assembly, ruling-party lawmakers complained about articles 60, 62, and 141 of the bill, which was distributed to their seats, "Now we're completely naked."

—Article 60 (Persons Who May Participate in Election Campaigns). As public-campaign organizations established by special laws, full-time workers, temporary workers, and the central chairmen of organizations receiving contributions or aid from the national government or local councils (Living Right Campaign Council, Sae Maul Campaign Council, Korea Freedom Alliance [Hanguk Chayu Chongyonmaeng]) may not participate in election campaigns.

—Article 62 (Assignment of Election-Campaign Office Personnel). The number of campaign office workers who may receive compensation and allowances, for the election of members of the National Assembly with local constituencies and for the election of municipal and provincial local council chiefs, is limited to within 1.5 times the number of up, myon, and tong in the counties or municipalities of districts with a campaign office or campaign liaison office.

—Article 141 (Limits on Party-Unity Rallies). Beginning 30 days before the day of the commencement of the election-campaign period through election day, political parties may not hold party-unity rallies or party-member workshops in electoral districts in which an election is scheduled or in progress aimed at party members who are district residents, regardless of whether for party-member training, unity, or other purpose. Lawmakers complained because these articles choke the life out of organization and funding, which in the past have been called the "premium" of the ruling party.

From the exact opposite standpoint, opposition-party lawmakers shouted with delight. In an informal gathering of DP lawmakers quickly convened on the night of the 4th when the election bill was passed, floor leader Kim Tae-sik declared, "The ruling party, which has depended on funding and organization, is now a Ben Johnson out of drugs." As though many were reminded of the scene of Carl Lewis running past Ben Johnson, all the lawmakers applauded. Bringing up the bill's Article 79, which allows the use of vehicles and loudspeakers, campaigning on roadsides, vacant lots, markets, etc., DP lawmakers exchanged "serious talk in jest," saying that it was now the "Era of the Opposition-Party Premium."

Has the ruling-party premium, the hotbed of past illegal and law-evasive elections, actually disappeared to the extent that people would be using the words "opposition-party premium"? Has, therefore, truly equitable competition between ruling and opposition parties been achieved, so that the will of the people is reflected in elections without distortion? The majority of both ruling and opposition parties answer, "Yes, for now." Actually, during the early and middle portions of past election-campaign periods, and at the very last, with on two or three days left before election day, ruling-party lawmakers gave funds to even pan [a subdistrict of a tong] organizers. The pan organizers would then hold guest symposiums, actually party-unity rallies, passing out money to voters. Thus, this was only regulated in a superficial way. The new election laws, however, stop this in a fundamental way. The covert support of government-sponsored organizations can no longer be hoped for either.

In the past, even though illegal campaign activities or those evasive of the law were exposed, a candidate could be "safe" by avoiding directly "having blood on his hands." Now, however, with a guilt-by-association system, election-law violations by head election officials,

spouses, direct descendants, or persons responsible for campaign-office accounts result in the annulment of a candidate's election. Not only this, but candidates can now object to a prosecutor's wrongful disposal of an action as an election offense and even apply for adjudication. Thus, it is the DP's analysis of the election laws that it is now possible to exclude the arbitrary application of prosecution authority and hold fair elections.

The attitudes of ruling-party lawmakers are also changing naturally. "I don't know about other people, but in the 14th General Election, I myself tried very hard to keep the law," said DLP lawmaker Rep. K, confessing, "But at least in political funding, you can't keep the law. I finally ended up using several billion won." Rep. (DLP) Hwang Yun-ki too, who had been a politics-related legislation negotiator, said, "Without the understanding that the party in power, depending on the situation, may become the opposition party, we can now no longer carry out an election." In some corners of the ruling party there is tension, and it is even said, "The real reason President Kim Yong-sam mentions English-style clean elections at every opportunity is to signify that he will arrest and invalidate the election of election-law violators, even if they belong to the ruling party and regardless of their number, as the United Kingdom did during the early period of its election reform." According to the evaluation (Situation Report) of the DP, "The unfair election practices of the past, which saw the ruling party's organization and funding square off against the opposition's wind operations [as published], have for now been changed into a climate in which it is possible for the ruling party and opposition to carry out elections from positions of equality."

However, as far as election campaigning goes, it is still too early to state that the ruling party and opposition have achieved a "relationship of complete balance" with the new election laws. For now, it is predicted that we will see pre-election activities by private organizations, such as family associations, hometown-friendship associations, and factional gatherings. If private organizations end up having a decisive influence on elections, it will no doubt be due to the advantageous position of ruling-party candidates, who have strong funding-raising capabilities. "The moment I looked at the election laws, the first thought that came to my mind was that I'm going to have to pay a little more attention to factional gatherings composed of market merchants and to family associations, which have only had a few personnel changes for appearance sake," responded ruling-party lawmaker Han Chae-son.

Despite the concerns of some, it is the general consensus that a large framework for equal competition between the ruling and opposition parties was created with the new election laws. Now all that remains is to create a strong will to enforce the law at the government level as well as an intention to keep it in the candidate, and to change the public's perspective so that it views as a "natural spectacle" the "unfamiliar environment" in which a ruling-party candidate does not use money.

* Fair Election Culture To Develop

[Sixth installment of the "Winds of Political Reform" appearing in the 11 March issue on page 2: By reporter Hong Un-taek]

[Text] With the integrated election laws enacted recently, the tradition of drawing lots to select the order in which speeches are to be given at joint election-speech rallies has become more important.

At joint election-speech rallies, the person speaking first is generally at a disadvantage. This is because afterward, one does not have a chance to defend oneself against an attacking opponent. One of the reasons unknown candidate Choe Uk-chol (DP) was able to upset national political giant candidate Kim Myong-yun (DLP) was Choe's luck in drawing lots.

Being a compound electoral district, in every one of the four rounds of joint election-speech rallies he got a good draw. Taking the stage after Kim, he monopolized opportunities to criticize Kim's parachute nominations of parliamentary candidates and to refute in detail Kim's campaign promises.

Compared to present law, the recently passed Public Election Law reduced the number of joint campaign-speech rallies, in the case of candidates for the National Assembly, from three to two. The hands of candidates drawing lots have come to tremble even more.

Over 80 percent of the audiences going to the joint campaign-speech grounds have been people mobilized by candidates to show off their power. These were loudly-cheering units of applauders. They would continuously called out their candidate's name while another candidate was giving a speech and then applauded when their candidate spoke regardless of what was said.

However, it is only naturally that these scenes will disappear beginning in the next election because candidates cannot use money, the most effective means for mobilizing people.

Now they will have to go around to places where people gather, not gather people together. The new election laws authorized the street campaign speeches of individual candidates without a limit on the number given. Concerned candidate's throats may get sore, the laws put a loudspeaker in their hands.

Accordingly, this means that whether or not one is elected may be decided by how one makes use of a loudspeaker.

Basic loudspeaker-usage rules (based on a general election) are as follows. First, only one authorized loudspeaker with a CEMC seal of approval may be used. Second, one loudspeaker may be used taking turns with one's spouse. One can now gain an advantage because of one's husband or wife. Third, one may not turn on a loudspeaker while moving in a vehicle. A loudspeaker

may only be used in a fixed state. Lastly, there are also usage-time limitations: usage is authorized until 2300.

Apart from these usage rules, accountability follows the words going out through the loudspeaker. In a position of attack, the opposition-party candidate is wrong if he thinks he has obtained a weapon by which he can attack the ruling party to his heart's content. Laws against libeling a candidate have been strengthened. If a person uselessly brings up a fact, slandering a candidate or his or her spouse, direct descendants, brothers or sisters, that person is subject to up to three years imprisonment or up to a W5 million fine.

Even apart from these matters demanding special attention, thought must be given for cases in which street campaign-speeches degenerate into noise pollution. Even if saying what is right, if everyone chatters away with a loudspeaker, this of itself can stir up antipathy.

Although authorized until 2300, care must be taken not to cause "sleep disturbance" in the vicinity of residential areas late at night. Finding people to work for free is one of the keys to the next election. This is because the new election laws reduced the number of salaried election-campaign workers, calling instead for the use of volunteers. Because of this, people who in the past worked in social movements are even predicted to have somewhat of an advantage.

This is also the cause of the recent increase in trips by members of the National Assembly to their districts.

It is also the answer at which they finally arrived after anguishing over how to gain the hearts of voters, if not with money, organization, or wind tactics.

This is because, although it is commonly said that, in the future, victories will have to be had with fresh policies, they think that there is nothing like making one's face known in one's district and scratching where voters itch to gain points.

One representative who participated in political-reform negotiations confessed that even while carrying on daily, night-long negotiations, the thought kept occurring to him, "I shouldn't be here doing this." Rather than rewards and recognition for his efforts concerning his participation in an historical work, he is more concerned about reactions that question why he is staying in Seoul and not coming down to his district.

There is even concern over adverse effects of the recently-passed Public Election Law: difficulty distinguishing between who is a local assemblyman and who is a member of the National Assembly.

* Changes Seen for Voters

[Seventh and last installment of the "Winds of Political Reform" appearing in the 13 March issue on page 2: By reporter Han Ki-hung]

[Text] "Seoul may be a little better. But the narrowly confined country is different. Most voters are closely

connected by school, blood, all kinds of personal ties. When meeting them after a long time, it is not easy to then just go our separate ways. There are many times when they come out expecting food and alcohol. Even if it costs a lot, you have to greet them without disappointing them. If you just leave without doing anything special for them, they'll say you are a rotten person. Apart from the question of success or failure in an election, what politician wants to be called that?"

Mr. K is a DP lawmaker originally from a rural area who has been elected three times. Whether at election time or during ordinary times, money is always a concern, but an "election that does not take money" will not be so easy either, he says. So, as he looked at the integrated election law passed in the National Assembly on 4 March, he was actually worried more than anything else, he admitted.

With their words, voters condemn corrupt elections. They change, however, when they are the ones concerned. If someone else takes something, it is "corruption"; if I take something, it is "gratitude." They seem to have a duplicitous way of thinking.

"Could it be that they're accustomed to the long years of illegal elections? Voters feel no sense of guilt when they are treated to dinners or are even given money envelopes by candidates."

Voters' sense of guilt is dull or atrophying, according to the diagnosis of Kap Nak-kyun, president of the Alliance of Korean Women Voters [Hanguk Yosong Yugwonja Yonmaeng]. Thus, to make "elections that do not take money" successful, the work of restoring this atrophied awareness is needed, Kap points out.

What do voters have to say? The results of a poll of voters' opinions by the CEMC show a significant trend.

An opinion poll was taken immediately after the March 1992 14th General Election. It asked voters who said they had taken money, gifts, or been entertained their reasons for doing so. 36 percent responded that they accepted it, "Because I could not refuse." However, 27.5 percent answered, "Because it is a common occurrence during elections"; 15.2 percent, "I don't really know"; and 9.6 percent, "Because I directly or indirectly demanded it."

There are no many instances of voters themselves demanding and receiving money or gifts. However, one thing was clear from this survey: many voters think nothing of accepting money, gifts, or entertainment.

A voter-opinion poll was taken in several districts before the April 1993 National Assembly Special Election. The greatest number, 37.8 percent, responded that for clean elections, voters should not vote for candidates committing unlawful acts. However, 87.1 percent of voters said they did not know which candidate better obeyed the election laws. The thought that one should not vote for a candidate who breaks the law easily becomes hollow.

Furthermore, 88.9 percent responded that they do not report it even though they witness the illegal election acts of a candidate.

The election laws contain statutes punishing voters accepting money and gifts as well as the candidate giving them. However, the CEMC and public prosecutors have concentrated on monitoring the law violations and evasions of political parties and candidates. They were lenient toward voters.

Now, however, people are beginning to point out that voters too must work jointly for clean elections, prepared to submit to punishment if they commit illegal acts. The mood of society is gradually increasing that, casting off the passive attitude of merely not accepting money, gifts, or entertainment, voters must display an active, citizen's spirit, monitoring and reporting violations committed by candidates and voters.

CEMC Public Relations Management Officer Chong Il-hwan said, "Although reporting by voters is

increasing, it needs to become more active." Son Pong-suk, director of the Korean Women's Political Research Center, pledged that citizens organizations, including the Women's Political Research Center, will lead the way in monitoring to ensure the success of "elections that do not take money," the aim of the newly created integrated election law.

That voters must demonstrate a spirit of citizenship is not merely for clean elections alone. It is also for putting politics in its rightful place. Members of the National Assembly and local assemblymen must be liberated from having to participate in events for congratulations and condolences—generally, weddings and funerals—and local functions in order to be faithful to their work in the legislature. The resolution by the DP's Political Reform Group [Chongchi Kaehyok Moim] (chief executive Im Chae-chong) not to send out money envelopes or floral wreaths is one attempt to move in this direction. This kind of movement must also arise among voters, or at least this kind of determination.

Burma

Yunnan Governor, Delegation Continue Visit

Call on Ministers

*BK1805164194 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] He Zhiqiang, governor of China's Yunnan Province, and his delegation called on Lieutenant General Aung Ye Kyaw, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and minister of culture, at his office on Kabaaye Pagoda Road this evening. Cordial and frank talks were held on improving bilateral cooperation on cultural matters.

Similarly, the party called on Lt. Gen. Chit Swe, minister of forestry, at the International Business Center on Prome Road and held frank and cordial talks on improving bilateral trade, forest conservation, and cooperation in timber-based industries.

The delegation inspected the Yangon [Rangoon]-Syriam bridge, Myanmar [Burma] Shipyards, and Yangon port this morning and later paid a courtesy call on the foreign minister.

Members of the economic cooperation mission accompanying the governor also held talks with officials from the Energy Ministry and Hotels and Tourism Ministry and the Industrial Planning Department of the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Myanmar Timber Enterprise of the Forestry Ministry.

Further on Activities

*BK2005081594 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 19 May 94*

[Text] Mr. He Zhiqiang, governor of Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, and delegation called on Lieutenant General Thein Win, minister of transport, at the latter's office on Merchant Street at 0900 this morning. At the meeting cordial and frank talks were held on improving bilateral economic cooperation and transportation matters such as Bhamo jetty development, the integrated use of Irrawaddy River, upgrading of ports in Yangon [Rangoon], construction of Kyaukpyu deep sea port, construction of international airports, upgrading of domestic airports, improving bilateral air links, and promotion of tourism.

Similarly, the party called on Lt. Gen. Maung Thint, minister of progress of border areas and national races and development affairs; Colonel Aung San, deputy minister of construction; Lt. Gen. Sein Aung, minister of industry-1; and U Khin Maung Thein, minister of energy, at their respective offices at 1030, 1130, 1430, and 1530 respectively. Present at the meetings were responsible personnel from the departments and enterprises of the various ministries concerned. They held talks on improving bilateral economic cooperation.

Members of the economic cooperation mission accompanying the Yunnan provincial governor and delegation,

also held talks with officials at the Trade Ministry and the Public Works in the morning and the Myanmar [Burma] Heavy Industries at 1400 respectively.

In the evening, Lt. Gen. Thein Win hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting delegation at Oasis Restaurant at 1900. The dinner was attended by Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development; Brig. Gen. Myo Thant, minister of information; U San Wai, deputy minister of transport; and directors general and managing directors from departments and enterprises under the ministry of transport.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Embassy in Phnom Penh Suffers Grenade Attack

*BK2005092694 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0335 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 20 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Embassy in Phnom Penh was attacked early Thursday [19 May] by unidentified persons who threw a grenade into the compound, an embassy official said.

The official said no one was hurt in the attack which occurred at about 1.30 am.

We don't know the identity of attackers or attacker nor the motive. But the police are investigating the incident, he told BERNAMA in a telephone interview. He said the explosion caused slight damage to the chancery building which is situated in the Cambodian capital's diplomatic quarter.

Security at the mission has been stepped up, he said. The mission has about 10 staffers, including the ambassador, but most are staying outside the embassy.

Such attacks were common during the UN-sponsored election period last year, but things has been quiet since in the city except for the normal criminal cases, a journalist for CAMBODIA TIMES Kim Seng said.

[Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English at 0600 GMT on 20 May in a similar report adds: "In Kuala Lumpur, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia was extremely disappointed over the attack. He expressed deep regret over the incident. He said [words indistinct]. However, he had directed that a report be compiled on the attack and hoped that it could be submitted to him soon."]

Singapore

Army Exercise With Philippines Ends 18 May
BK2005021294 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 19 May 94 p 23

[Text] The first joint army exercise between Singapore and the Philippines, a combined battalion live-firing exercise, ended yesterday with the successful capture of "enemy" objectives.

Singapore's Chief of Army, Brigadier-General [BG] Lim Neo Chian, and the Philippine Army's Commanding General, Major-General Romulo Yap, jointly officiated at the closing ceremony at the Safti [Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute] live-firing area, after witnessing the assault.

The live firing was the climax of the week-long combined land exercise involving the Singapore Armed Forces [SAF] and the Philippine Army, held under the Anoa-Singa series of exercises.

It was the first bilateral army exercise between the two countries to be held in Singapore.

Anoa-Singa 2/94 is conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding the two countries signed earlier this month. It provides for regular joint exercises between the two armed forces.

A 200-strong Philippine Army contingent took part in the exercise, with 600 SAF personnel from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Singapore Guards.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Maj. Gen. Yap said that the exercise had forged closer understanding and cooperation between the two armies.

He said that it had also provided the Philippine Army with its first opportunity to train with a "fellow Asian".

Its previous army exercises have been with only the United States.

Maj. Gen. Yap added that Singapore's Total Defence concept was useful to note at a time when the Philippine Army was itself strengthening its reserve force.

On the Singapore end, BG Lim said that the SAF troops found the lectures given by their Filipino counterparts on psychological operations beneficial.

Major James Lim, the Commanding Officer of 2nd Guards, said that the exercise gave the troops the chance to familiarise themselves with each other's doctrines and operating procedures.

He said the live-firing exercise was a display of mutual trust and respect for the skills of the soldiers of both armies.

The exercise, a battalion attack mission, went smoothly, although the soldiers carried it out with men whom they were not thoroughly familiar with, he added.

He said: "The element of trust comes in because live rounds are being used. The exercise requires the soldiers to depend on others who give support fire with artillery and tanks.

"Doing it with your own men requires trust, what more, doing it with soldiers from another army whom you don't know as well."

Maj. Lim said that the battalion live firing was also a show of respect by the soldiers for their counterparts' professionalism and skill.

Soldiers going into a live-firing exercise must have a high level of individual skill before they take part.

He said: "Obviously, the soldiers saw for themselves how proficient the Filipinos were.

"I think they felt the same way about our SAF soldiers too, after interacting with us."

The most important outcome, Maj. Lim said, was that after practising and going through the live firing together, the men have come out better friends.

The next bilateral exercise between the two armies is scheduled to be held next year in the Philippines, at the Fort Magsaysay training area.

Philippines

Ramos Bans Foreign Attendance at Timor Conference

BK2005080594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0751 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] MANILA, May 20 (AFP)—President Fidel Ramos said Friday that foreign participants of a planned human rights conference on East Timor, opening in Manila later this month, would be banned from entering the Philippines. Their presence at the privately organized May 31-June 3 meeting would be "inimical to the national interest," a presidential palace statement said.

The regional conference had sparked a diplomatic row between Manila and Jakarta, with the latter threatening retaliation if it takes place. Ramos cited the planned participation of Jose Ramos-Horta, a special representative of the East Timor resistance. He ordered Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon to "take immediate steps to exclude such persons and other non-Filipino conferees."

On Thursday, Indonesia, angry at the East Timor seminar, had threatened to scrap a meeting it had organised between Manila and group of Filipino Moslem rebels. The meeting is due to take place next month.

Banned Conferees Named

BK2005105594 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] All foreigners participating in the East Timor Conference will be barred from entering the country.

This was the order given by the president to the Departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

Ramos said that the entry of foreign nationals attending the conference on East Timor is inimical to national interests.

The eight foreigners who will be banned from entering the country are: Jose Ramos Horta, Carmel Budjardjo, Jose Gutierrez, Lim-Siou Liong, A. Perera, Maria Alkatiri, Juan Feberer, and Jaoa Carrascalao. They will not be given visas. Visas already issued will be canceled, while those foreigners already in the country may be deported. Only foreign exchange students will be allowed to attend the conference.

Manglapus Details Results of Indonesia Mission

*BK2005093094 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 20 May 94*

[“Text” of report issued by former Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus on 19 May; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] We have just returned from Jakarta, where we carried out upon the instructions of President Ramos a special mission to Indonesia. We conveyed a letter from the president to President Suharto concerning the proposed holding in the Philippines of the meeting on East Timor, an event over which the Indonesian Government had expressed its deep concern. We had the occasion to exchange views on the subject with His Excellency Ali Alatas, the foreign minister of Indonesia, and the other officials of the Indonesian Government.

Our talks were characterized by utmost cordiality. We assured the Indonesian Government of the Philippines’ continuing support for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Indonesia, including the province of East Timor, support which President Ramos had earlier reaffirmed in connection with the proposed conference on East Timor. We recalled the declarations of President Ramos, Vice President Estrada, and other Philippine officials that they shared Indonesia’s concern over the implications of the conference. We made it clear that President Ramos had firmly dissociated the Philippine Government from the conference. At the same time, we pointed out that the event was being organized with Philippine private groups and individuals as formally the hosts, and we stressed that the Philippine Constitution guarantees freedom of assembly and freedom of speech and that therefore the Philippine Government is unable to prevent, under normal circumstances, the conference from taking place. However, we informed the Indonesian officials that everything would be done in accordance with the Constitution and our laws to ensure that this unfortunate development does not harm the friendly relations between the Philippines and Indonesia.

Foreign Minister Alatas expressed the gratitude of President Suharto to President Ramos for sending our mission. He conveyed the Indonesian Government’s appreciation for our explanation and for the reiteration of the Philippine Government support for the Indonesian position on East Timor. He stated that other Indonesian officials had done and have done that Indonesia understood and respect the Philippine position on constitutional rule and human rights. [sentence as heard] He declared, however, that the proposed conference is not simply a matter of human rights. We noted Minister Alatas’ observation that the scheduled meeting was neither a gathering of human rights nor an academic exercise but as part of a political action plan of a small secessionist exile group, using the Philippine conference to subvert Indonesia’s sovereignty on East Timor. We noted that this small secessionist exile group was giving the central direction in the organization of the conference.

We recalled the invaluable role which Indonesia has played in the Organization of Islamic Conference with respect to our secessionist problem. The mission expressed the Philippines’ gratitude for this. We and the Indonesians agreed to continue exchanging views and information on this matter and on the Philippine-Indonesian relations in general.

Claimed Parts of Spratlys To Be Developed

*BK2005100094 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] The Department of Interior and Local Government [DILG] will transform the mineral-rich Kalayaan [Freedom] chain of islands [part of Spratly Islands claimed by the Philippines] into one of the country’s viable local government unit. The Kalayaan Islands is considered to be the next flash point among the Asian claimant nations. DILG Acting Secretary Alexander Aguirre said the transformation will be in line with earlier plans of the Cabinet Cluster “E” to attract settlers in the area. Aside from the Philippines, the other claimant nations which have already established military units in the areas include Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei and China.

U.S. Colonel’s Killers Said Covered by Amnesty

*BK2005103294 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network
in Tagalog 0500 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] Major General Alfredo Filler, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] vice chief of staff, stressed that the members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade involved in the killing of U.S. Colonel James Rowe are covered by the government’s amnesty program. Filler said that the killers were captured and punished. They, however, still have the right to apply for the amnesty program.

It will be recalled that the U.S. Government objected to the granting of amnesty to the three New People’s Army rebels who killed Rowe while on his way to JUSMAG

[Joint United States Military Advisory and Planning Group] in Quezon City during the latter part of 1980.

According to Filler, the Philippines will not be violating the diplomatic agreement which it signed wherein the government will give protection to American nationals in the country. Filler clarified that the agreement does not stipulate the banning of parole or amnesty.

Freed Communist Vows To Support Movement

BK2005103594 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Freed communist leader Wilma Tiamzon vowed yesterday to continue supporting the underground movement. Tiamzon was speaking during a news conference at the Philippine Heart Center where she is confined. Tiamzon was released to Bishop Alberto Ramento who represented the joint peace committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. Ramento said Tiamzon could go anywhere in the country and do whatever she wants to do. Ramento said that the custodianship is not physical but legal, adding that he could not ensure Tiamzon's security under his custody. He explained that it would not be his responsibility if Tiamzon decided to go underground again. At the news conference at the Philippine Heart Center, Tiamzon did not say if she would continue running the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Thailand

Court Takes Action on Copyright Violation Cases

BK1705104894 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The court has handed down sentences in three of the five cases of copyright violation under the 1978 Copyright Law. The cases are being watched by the United States as criteria to judge whether or not Thailand should be removed from the U.S. Priority Watch List.

Reporting on the matter, Deputy Commerce Minister Chulin Laksanawisit said the five cases of copyright violation are of great interests to foreigners. He said the court so far had ruled on three cases. The Macalpine Company is subjected to a fine of 80,000 baht and one-year probation pending a jail term of eight months. The three defendants in the Robot case were subjected to a fine of 35,000 baht each, but the sum was reduced to half because they all confessed. The Sky Company was subjected to a fine of 200,000 baht and one-year probation pending a prison term of one year. Two other cases, the Super Peacock and the MBK cases, are still under the hearing of plaintiff witnesses.

The five cases, in addition to the copyright bill which is to be approved by the parliament, are being used by the United States as conditions to decide whether to remove Thailand from the Priority Watch List.

Ambassador Notes Prospects for Investment in Burma

BK1805163994 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 18 May 94 p 7

[Text] Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar [Burma] Wirasak Futrakun reported on investment in Burma. He said the situation is at a turning point after the Burmese government allowed 100-percent investment by the private sector instead of assigning state enterprises to supervise operations as in the past. Besides, he said the Burmese Government has a policy of promoting foreign investment, and has announced that foreigners can lease from 12,500 to 75,000 rai of land for business operations for up to 30 years unconditionally.

Reporting on foreign investment, Wirasak said Singapore tops the list with investment capital worth U.S. \$240 million. The United States ranks second with U.S. \$210 million. South Korea ranks third at U.S. \$90 million; Thailand fourth at U.S. \$70 million; the United Kingdom fifth at U.S. \$60 million; and Japan sixth at U.S. \$50 million. Thailand leads other countries, however, in fishing and logging sectors. Anyway, the Burmese Government has finally enacted a law banning logging by private companies and prohibiting log exports from the country. Burma has also banned exports of marine life. It has encouraged foreigners to set up sawmills, furniture, and plywood factories.

The ambassador said the Burmese Government has opened bidding for five plywood factories. More than 30 foreign companies, including those from Thailand, tendered for concessions. Singapore and Korean companies won the bidding for plywood factories. Thai companies have won bids to open furniture factories. Wirasak said Thai businessmen should form groups to better compete with other countries, especially in the hotel and tourism sectors where Singapore is keen and has substantial capital for investment. He said two Thai companies had won concessions for tin and coal mining. The Phadaeng Group, Loxley, and Siam Cement Group are considering investment or joint investment in other businesses.

Army Denies Providing Sanctuary for Pol Pot

BK2005031094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 May 94 p A5

[Text] Army Spokesman Col Phalangkun Klahan yesterday denied a fresh allegation that Thailand is providing a sanctuary for secretive Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

"There is no reason for Thailand to provide a refuge for Pol Pot," he emphatically told THE NATION.

Phalangkun was responding to a FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW news release yesterday which reported that Pol Pot is believed to be residing in a well-guarded compound inside a durian plantation in Chanthaburi province.

Khmer Rouge defectors told the REVIEW that the renegade faction leader had found a safe haven in Thailand after spending some time in a special residence in the Phnum Chhat area near the Thai border in late 1993.

Branding the allegation "outdated information," Phalangkun insisted that the Army wanted to confirm that Pol Pot was not living in Thai territory.

The communists Khmer Rouge rejected participation in UN-organized elections in Cambodia in May 1993. The guerrillas continue to fight for an advisory role in the government.

An earlier report said that Khmer Rouge nominal chief Khieu Samphan agreed last week to meet Cambodian government representatives for peace talks in North Korea scheduled to begin on May 27.

Two 'Foreigners' Sought in Aborted Bombing

*BK2005115694 Bangkok THE NATION in English
20 May 94 p A2*

[Text] Police are preparing to issue arrest warrants for two foreigners suspected of involvement in a planned terrorist attack that was discovered by sheer luck in Bangkok in March, a top police commander said yesterday.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Lt Gen Chaisit Kanchanakit did not identify their nationalities.

A one-ton bomb made from ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer and C-4 explosive was found in mid-March in a six-wheel truck that had been seized by police and parked in front of the Lumpini police station since it was involved in a minor traffic accident near the Israeli Embassy on March 11.

Chaisit said that he had no idea if the two foreigners were still in Thailand. Police have said they suspected foreign terrorists, in collaboration with local people, were behind the unsuccessful terrorist attack. No identities of the suspected terrorists had been revealed although police said they had collected intelligence information about them.

A Muslim man was held by police in Narathiwat's Muang district on Wednesday on suspicion that he was a member of a southern separatist group preparing to carry out an act of sabotage in the South.

Ma-ae Buraheng, 27, from Narathiwat's Bacho district, was held after police stopped a taxi at a checkpoint in Ban Khao Tanyong area, Narathiwat police chief Panya Thiansat said. Police found a membership card of the Pattani United Liberation Organization (Pulo) in his underpants, Pol Col Panya said. In a search of his camouflage backpack, police found military fatigues, a pair of jungle boots, an alarm clock, a bag of rice, a needle and number of electric wires, he said. He said police had not yet filed charges against Ma-ae. The suspect may be charged with either organized crime or

being a rebel, as suggested by his Pulo member card, he added. The suspect was being held at Tanyong police station pending further questioning, which would be jointly conducted by police and military officers, he said.

In another development, Songkhla Governor Yuwat Wuthimethi dismissed press reports that he had approved a request to arrest 13 additional suspects for involvement in a series of violent incidents in the South.

"Up till now, I have never seen such a request from the police, Yuwat told reporters.

One Killed in Clash Between Separatists, Military

*BK2005121394 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
20 May 94 p 2*

[Text] Yala—Separatist was killed and two government soldiers seriously wounded in three running battles between a government patrol and bandits of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) yesterday,

Police said the combined 30-strong patrol of police and rangers from Raman and Kabang districts clashed for the first time with the bandit group under Poh Layu on a mountain near Ban Khlong Khing in Kabang District, about two kilometers from the border with Malaysia.

The clash, which took place about 1.45 p.m. in a heavy rain, lasted for about 40 minutes. A soldier, Pvt Somsak Phunsom, was shot in the left arm. He was evacuated by helicopter to Yala Hospital an hour later.

The second clash took place about two hours later. During the clash, a defense volunteer, Phanom Sangphet, lost both legs after stepping on a land mine.

The third firefight took place late in the afternoon for about 10 minutes in the same locality. After the clash, the body of a bandit was found at the scene with an AK47 rifle.

Vietnam

Hanoi Quotes Foreign Press on Spratly Claims

*OW1905132294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in Mandarin
0830 GMT 19 May 94*

[From the "Talk on International News and Current Events" program]

[Excerpts] The international media has lately expressed concern over exploration activities in Vietnam's Changshas [Spratlys] and near Thanh Long (Blue Dragon) reef by China and the U.S. Crestone Corporation. Following are excerpts of comments carried by the international press over this issue:

In an article in the 6 May issue of the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, Philip Bowring said the international media was astonished when, two years ago, the U.S. Crestone Energy Corporation announced that China had awarded it an exploration block in an area 250 kilometers southeast of Vietnam and 500 kilometers

from Malaysia, but 1,300 kilometers from China's Hainan Island. [passage omitted on the TRIBUNE report]

According to an ASSOCIATED PRESS report, U.S. lawyers and oceanography experts stated on 12 May that, Vietnam's reiteration of its territorial and sovereignty claims over the Changshas seems rational and understandable. [passage omitted on the ASSOCIATED PRESS report]

Writing in the March issue of the NATIONAL DEFENSE MAGAZINE, Navy Officer (Henry Labrook) said a check against the archives of the French Foreign Ministry will show that the Changshas are Vietnamese territory. [passage omitted on NATIONAL DEFENSE report]

Government Builds Second Lighthouse in Spratlys
BK2005091594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] HANOI, May 20 (AFP)—Vietnam is building a second lighthouse in the hotly-contested Spratlys archipelago in the South China Sea, the communist party's NHAN DAN newspaper said Friday.

The lighthouse going up on Da Tay island, 450 kilometers (280 miles) from the Vietnam coast, will stand 20 meters (65 feet) high and cover an area of 25 kilometers (15 miles), the daily said. It illustrated its report with a photograph of Vietnamese workers at the site with incoming construction materials.

Vietnam built its first lighthouse in the Spratlys last October on Son Tu Tay island, in the northeast part of the far-flung archipelago, about 560 kilometers (350 miles) from the mainland naval base of Cam Ranh Bay. Standing 36 meters (120 feet) high, it was fitted with radar.

Sovereignty over the Spratlys, which lie along strategic sea lanes and are supposedly rich in oil deposits, is disputed chiefly by China and Vietnam, with Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan also making claims.

In charge of building the second lighthouse, requiring 6,500 tonnes of material, is a company belonging to the Vietnamese government's civilian maritime affairs department. Work began last August, and is scheduled to be finished by the end of the year, an official of the department told AFP in Hanoi.

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Asia Society in Singapore
BK2005034894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] During his current visit to Singapore, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet addressed the Asia Society conference. The theme of the conference was Waves of the Future: ASEAN, Vietnam, China and Opportunities for World Trade. Following are excerpts of the prime minister's speech.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said: If the waves of the past in the Pacific were in a hot-war-and-cold-war situation, today, waves were in calmer waters with a trend of cooperation having a chance to develop. ASEAN, China, and Vietnam were places where there are new opportunities for businesses. Now it was beneficial to turn the trend toward cooperation under a formal basis whose mainstay was mutual respect and cooperation of mutual benefit.

The Vietnamese prime minister said that when implementing its policy, Vietnam took into account the new trend. The danger was to lag behind in economic development compared to many countries in the world, including many countries in the region, if Vietnam was not fully well aware of this and did not strive harder. Mr. Vo Van Kiet said: By adopting the policy of comprehensive renovation in time, Vietnam had overcome its most crucial moment and could now work out for itself the way to step by step industrialize and modernize itself in the building of a prosperous and powerful Vietnam with an equal and civilized society. However, while the Vietnamese understood that domestic resources were the decisive factor, those resources would multiply if integrated into global development trends. Vietnam was an inseparable part of the world. It wished and must take part in the trend of international cooperation.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed that the necessity for development in the region and the world was to enter into a new wave of peace and stability. He said the Asia-Pacific was a region of dynamic development. Trends for peace, stability, and cooperation were prevailing. However, he said, there might be some hidden factors which cause instability in the region. These were disputes over territory and territorial waters and tension in the Korean peninsula and in Cambodia, which were worrying to all.

He called for the settlement of existing disputes and differences between nations through peaceful negotiations on the basis of respect for international laws and in accordance with the common trend against the use of force in international relations and a recurrence of the cold war.

Once again, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet affirmed Vietnam's foreign policy to befriend all countries in the world and strive for peace, independence, and development. He said Vietnam attached great importance to friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries and the Asia-Pacific region. He once again welcomed the U.S. President's decision to lift the embargo on Vietnam, which opened up new possibilities for normalization of relations between the two countries. He said the Vietnamese Government and people welcomed and created favorable conditions for foreign investors to come to Vietnam.

South Korean Foreign Minister Arrives 19 May
BK2005082694 Hanoi VNA in English 1424 GMT
19 May 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19—Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Han Sung-chu arrived in Hanoi this afternoon beginning an official visit to Vietnam as guest of his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam.

Minister Hang Sung-chu and his party were welcomed at the government guest house by Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Finance Ho Te and other government officials.

Minister Cam later received his guest and affirmed that the visit took place at a time when the relations between the two countries were developing and expressed his hope that it would create a new step of development in these relations.

South Korean Ambassador Pak No Su was present at the reception.

The Vietnamese foreign minister gave a banquet this evening in honour of his South Korean guests.

Ministry Orders Survey of Illegally Imported Cars
BK2005100294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Implementing the Prime Minister's directive, the Ministry of Interior instructed police in localities to conduct a survey on the number of cars imported illegally into the country, including those imported without complying with the set procedures.

According to a recent survey, 28 provinces and municipalities have imported 1,512 cars of various types without meeting the set procedure requirements, mostly in Song Be, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai, Vinh Long, Dong Thap, Binh Thuan, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Long An, Lam Dong, and Ninh Thuan Provinces.

Quang Ninh and Gia Lai Provinces reported that they did not register any new cars. A recent investigation found, however, that Quang Ninh Province registered four cars with fake customs clearance documents while the Pleiku City police of Gia Lai Province coordinated with the Quang Ngai provincial police to register 180 cars and motorcycles using fake customs documents.

Vietsovpetro 'Striving' To Increase Oil Production
BK2005102994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Vietnam Oil and Natural Gas General Corporation's Vietsovpetro joint enterprise is striving to exploit various new oil wells and develop old ones to increase crude oil production. As of 15 May, the enterprise had produced more than 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil. It has also exploited the acid substances produced at the bottom of oil wells and has signed contracts to improve conditions at various oil wells to

increase the production output by 8,000 tonnes per day. While making great efforts to improve conditions at new and old oil wells, the enterprise is renovating the oil tanker Ba Vi to assist in the exploitation of oil fields in the third quarter this year.

Dissident Buddhist Leader Urges More Action
BK2005091794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT
20 May 94

[By Robert Templer]

[Text] HANOI, May 20 (AFP)—The leader of a dissident Vietnamese Buddhist church has appealed for his followers to step up their fight against what he termed Hanoi's repression of religion, according to a statement seen here Friday.

In a message to mark Buddha's birthday, the Venerable Thich Huyen Quang called on his followers to multiply "their efforts in the struggle for religious freedom and human rights," said a statement from the Paris-based International Buddhist Information Bureau.

The appeal, sent clandestinely from central Vietnam, where Quang is reportedly under house arrest, comes just days before the first anniversary of clashes between Buddhists and police in the central city of Hue after which three monks were sentenced to prison terms for "disturbing public order."

Quang has not been recognised as head of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBVC), and is under house arrest, according to Human Rights Watch/Asia. The government has denied the charge.

The Buddhist leader appealed for the stepped up campaign for the church's independence to be carried out "in the spirit of conciliation and non-violence."

He dismissed attempts by Hanoi to present a more tolerant face towards religion by allowing the restoration of pagodas and the opening of some Buddhist schools.

"This does not signify that we have religious freedom," Quang said. "A concrete proof of this is the fact that the authorities ... continue to ban the UBCV and prohibit all its religious activities."

In the face of demands for greater religious freedom, "the authorities have stepped up their repression of the UBCV, harassing and imprisoning Buddhist dignitaries and followers," Quang said.

Hanoi denies oppressing Buddhism, pointing to the renovation of nearly all the country's more than 4,000 pagodas in the past three years and the increase in the number of monks and nuns from 17,000 to more than 20,000.

But to keep control over religion and a lid on potential dissent, Hanoi insists that all churches belong to the Fatherland Front, a communist party umbrella group for social organisations.

The UBCV has resisted attempts to force it to join the group, which it says attempts to control all religious activities, including the appointment of Buddhist leaders.

The church, which claims to be Vietnam's sole legitimate Buddhist church and traces its tradition back 2,000 years, has a history of resisting state control—most famously during the rule of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Around 70 percent of Vietnam's 70 million people are Buddhists, with large numbers concentrated in the former imperial capital of Hue, where protests last year aroused intense anxiety in the government.

On May 24 last year, a group of Buddhist monks blocked traffic for hours in Hue with a sit-down protest after Tich Tri Tuu, the head of Linh Mu Pagoda, was taken away by municipal authorities to discuss the self-immolation of a man at the pagoda three days earlier.

Fearing Tich Tri Tuu was being taken to jail, protestors attacked, overturned and burned a police vehicle that authorities say was returning the monk to his pagoda after discussion of the incident.

Earlier this week, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied a report from the Buddhist Information Bureau that the imprisoned monks were on hunger strike at the Ba Sao reeducation camp south of Hanoi.

But the government did not respond to an appeal by the group to allow representatives of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the monks.

Assembly Official Says Session To Open 26 May

BK2005115194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Office of the National Assembly held a news conference today to announce the agenda of the Ninth National Assembly's fifth session.

Comrade Vu Mao, chairman of the Office of the National Assembly, said that the fifth session of the Ninth National Assembly will open on 26 May and continue for about one month. The main agenda includes debating and passing a code of law and five draft laws, examining the situation regarding the implementation of the 1994 tasks during the first months of the year, and other matters.

Also at the news conference, Comrade Vu Mao presented a National Assembly Standing Committee resolution promulgating coordination between state authorities in directing and organizing the implementation of the National Assembly resolution on practicing thrift and fighting wasteful spending, corruption, and smuggling.

Phan Van Khai Chairs Regular Government Meeting

BK2005114794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The government held its regular monthly meeting on 18-19 May to discuss reports on its socioeconomic performance in the first six months, to outline measures to execute its work in the last six months to present to the fifth session of the Ninth National Assembly, and to decide on other important issues. Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai chaired the meeting.

Tran Xuan Ta, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission [SPC], on behalf of the SPC chairman, presented a report on the execution of socioeconomic planning in the first six months. Finance Minister Ho Te read a report on the implementation of the state budget in the first six months. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam reported on diplomatic activities in the recent months.

Cabinet members discussed and agreed on the government report, which is going to be presented to the National Assembly in the upcoming session. The minister in charge of the Government Organization and Personnel Commission [GOPC] also reported planning for training and restraining of management cadres and government officials. The cabinet agreed to charge the GOPC and other responsible organs to perfect further the planning before resubmitting it to the government in the coming period. The meeting also offered views and passed a regulation for the protection of consumers's rights and a regulation on authors' copyright protection, which are going to be submitted to the National Assembly Standing Committee in its upcoming meeting.

Speaking at the concluding session of the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai reminded cabinet members that despite the fact that our socioeconomic situation has improved continuously and has stabilized in all fields since the beginning of this year, many problems relating to the government's direct leadership and management have emerged. That requires government leadership and management which must be responsive and appropriate so national development can be further improved in the coming months. The deputy prime minister also stressed some measures to continue price stabilization, to control inflation, to increase budget revenue, to fight waste, to practice thrift, to ensure less spending from 5 to 7 percent as outlined in the National Assembly Resolution, and to guarantee that the production development rate will reach the initial planning target in order to maintain the stable development rate for the entire year of 1994.

Le Kha Phieu Writes on Dien Bien Phu Spirit

BK2005065994 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 May 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Le Kha Phieu: "Develop the Dien Bien Phu Spirit in Carrying Out the Renovation Undertaking"]

[Text] The Dien Bien Phu victory is the resounding victory of the Vietnamese nation in its struggle against colonialism for national independence and freedom in the 20th century. Although 40 years have elapsed, the significance of this historic victory is still fresh in the memory of all people. In the past, we have had ample time to review more profoundly and comprehensively the experiences and lessons drawn from the Dien Bien Phu battle so as to apply them to the national construction and defense tasks. Beyond the military aspect, the Dien Bien Phu victory also provides us with valuable lessons that can be applied not only to the military and national defense fields, but to the political, socioeconomic, cultural, and diplomatic domains.

It can be said that the Dien Bien Phu victory is not only of great significance to the Vietnamese people, but also plays an important role in encouraging the struggles of other nations. During the past 40 years, the mention of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, and Dien Bien Phu, as described by our friends, "has aroused the determination of billions of people struggling for national independence and freedom," and "has served as a martial song" for oppressed nations and other movements for national liberation. It also serves as "a reminding event" or "a great, significant truth that provides exalted hope for people struggling for their just cause." It can be said that although Dien Bien Phu is in a remote, rugged valley in the northwestern region of Vietnam, it has provided marvelous illumination for all. We, especially those who participated in the battle, have been astonished about its influence. Indeed, we are very proud to say that Dien Bien Phu is not only a valuable spiritual heritage of the Vietnamese people, but also the heritage of mankind. It is the duty of our generation to strive to protect this heritage while doing our best to bring the spirit of Dien Bien Phu into full play, especially in the national construction and defense tasks at present and in the days ahead.

Dien Bien Phu has symbolized our nation's earnest aspiration for national independence and freedom. The greatest truth of the Dien Bien Phu victory rests with the fact that a nation, although small and weak, can defeat whatever cruel imperialism and regain its independence and freedom if it knows how to unite its people to fight in true revolutionary spirit and in accordance with the correct orientation of the party and the proletariat. This has also proved as correct the brilliant truth that love and righteousness always wins over violence and tyranny. To realize this truth, several generations of our people have sacrificed untold blood and bone. President Ho Chi Minh condensed the definition of this truth into a phrase depicting our people's strong determination for their goal: "There is nothing more precious than national independence and freedom." From Dien Bien Phu to the protracted, heroic struggle against the U.S. imperialism, our people have fought in this spirit and impetus, and we have overcome all difficulties and ordeals to gain the final victory. During the more than 20 years of carrying out our national liberation struggle since 1954 and the subsequent period in the war for national salvation, we

have never forgotten Dien Bien Phu. On the contrary, the spirit of Dien Bien Phu has been brought into full play, especially during the war of resistance for national salvation. At the most difficult conditions and decisive moments, the spirit of Dien Bien Phu has always served as an effective catalyst to encourage us to continue our struggle. Indeed, following the battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, we won a similar battle in the air in December 1972. The name of Dien Bien Phu has manifested the unyielding nature of the Vietnamese people. No force, regardless of how cruel it is and how much sophisticated equipment it is armed with, can conquer the united and well-organized people who rise up to defend their rights to live in independence and freedom.

Forty years after Dien Bien Phu, our nation has gained total independence and freedom. The nation has been unified and our people are living in peace. They are striving to build and defend the country while doing their best to attain the goal of making our people prosperous, our country powerful, and our society just and civilized. In the process of building and developing the country, the spirit of Dien Bien Phu has always stayed in the memory of the Vietnamese people because national independence is still the vital issue of the nation. Only when national independence is firmly protected and maintained can our nation develop and advance further toward socialism. Forty-five years ago, through the August Revolution, our people smashed the yoke of slavery and regained our independence and freedom. We are now determined to protect our rights to live and enjoy independence, freedom, and happiness. The fact that our nation has set two strategic tasks of building and defending the fatherland is aimed at leading our nation to stability and development, gradually overcoming the socioeconomic crisis, and making preparations to enter the new developmental stage to attain national industrialization and modernization.

What have we learnt from the Dien Bien Phu Victory? That question is asked today and it will be asked again by our descendants in the future because the vitality of the Dien Bien Phu spirit started from our national tradition of thousands of years of fighting and that tradition has been impregnated in all our generations. Each generation will find its most valuable and suitable ways to transform the Dien Bien Phu spirit to revolutionary actions to solve its own practical problems.

The Dien Bien Phu Victory, first of all, is the strength of the determined-to-fight and determined-to-win spirit of our entire people for the noble goal of independence, freedom, and socialism. From December 1946, in response to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, our entire army and people entered a long and arduous resistance war with the determination to "sacrifice everything and resolutely not to accept the loss of our country and become slaves" and to "gain independence even all Truong Son Range will be burnt out". They, with a iron belief in the last victory, accepted all hardship and sacrifice to resolutely fight and win in Dien Bien Phu.

In fighting as well as in peaceful construction, a determined willpower is a driving force of uttermost importance. It also is one of factors to decide victory. We do not believe in voluntarism. But we are easy to fail, even a small task, if we do not carry out a work with determination. At present, every Vietnamese and the entire people must carry a high determination to win over poverty and backwardness and to take our country forward. At the same time, we must also have a strong determination to resolutely and firmly protect our national independence and territorial integrity in any circumstances. We do not give in to slavery, starvation, and poverty. We have determination and belief—the belief in the party's line and leadership, in the Vietnamese people's intelligence, and in the strength of the great national unity. Now, despite Vietnam is still a developing country, thanks to its insistence in the renovation and the great efforts from our party and people, we have overcome the socioeconomic crisis in one step. Our economy starts to accumulate some internal savings and people's life has been improved. Together with the socioeconomic progress, we have maintained political stability and strengthened security and national defense. Vietnam's position in the international arena has been heightened. Lessons drawn from the reality of the renovation are the new development of the former Dien Bien Phu lessons. These lessons are the lessons about the determination in the goal, the insistence in revolutionary principles and strategy, the resolution to overcome difficulties, and the active creativeness to discover and solve on-going problems. The difficulties in Dien Bien Phu battlefield were very grave. They affected the thinking of our cadres, soldiers, and people. But thanks to our high willpower and determination, we overcame all those difficulties and challenges to gain victory. The same thing has happened to our current undertaking of national construction and army building. At every stage, new requirements and difficulties do occur, but if we are firm, resolute in our goals, and determined to fight, we will overcome all difficulties to accomplish our duty.

Dien Bien Phu is a brilliant lesson on the spirit of self-reliance. In an unbalanced situation of armed forces, means, and technical equipment, our army and people developed their activism and creativeness to an highest level to satisfactorily prepare for the campaign, including political and ideological preparation and preparations for the Army, logistics, technology, fighting planning, fighting tactics,... to continuously impose sudden and unexpected things on our opponent. Before every new stage of the campaign and every wave of attacks, so many complicated issues emerged. But we developed the collective intelligence to find suitable measures for those problems. Therefore, despite of numerous difficulties in unbalanced strength and military equipment, our army and people heightened the spirits of determined-to-fight and determined-to-win, self-reliance, and courageous sacrifice to invent many unique, intelligent, and sufficient fighting tactics to take our enemy by surprise and frustrate their counterattacks. It is possible to say that in the Dien Bien Phu Victory, we knew how to develop the

precious ethics and quality of the Vietnamese people to improve our internal strength to fight and to win.

Today, the lesson on the spirit of self-reliance is still carrying its full value. With our party and state's correct policy on foreign affairs, we have more and more friends in the world, thus creating new advantages for our national construction and development. But we have always confirmed that in national development, we would mainly rely on our internal force.

If we rely on foreign countries, we will have to depend on them. Let us uphold the spirit of independence and sovereignty, grasp all advantages and new opportunities to cooperate with the outside world and gain its support, and combine these factors with the abundant source of strength at home to create a new impetus for development. Along with upholding the spirit of self-sufficiency and self-help, let us practice thrift, promote a vigorous movement against corruption and waste, make the optimum use of capital and other resources, and concentrate efforts on boosting production and generating goods for society. The current army-building task must also be based on the spirit of self-sufficiency and self-help. Let us make the best use of all local and national potential and strive to practice thrift. No country can achieve its development goals without practicing thrift. If they want to enrich themselves and achieve their development goals, each country, each establishment, each family, and each person must save money.

Speaking of the Dien Bien Phu spirit, one must also deal with the most basic lesson about the leadership and direction of party organizations and party members and the need to constantly strengthen leadership skills. Based on their correct assessment of the situation, scientific analysis of real-life situations, and timely review of the experiences drawn from each phase of the campaign, each offensive, and each battle, our party and Uncle Ho—the beloved father of our Armed Forces—made correct decisions, thus reflecting their sensitivity, wisdom, and solid knowledge. Based on the actual situations and by weighing the pros and cons of whether one should launch swift attacks to annihilate the enemy or just attack small objectives to be sure of victory, we made an objective and scientific analysis and opted for the second solution, thus successfully overcoming the tendency to achieve our goals overnight and creating conditions for victory. Through the wars of resistance and then the process of postwar national construction, our party has drawn more leadership experiences to benefit the revolution. Faced with new problems arising from real life situations, one must always make a very objective, correct, and timely evaluation to rectify shortcomings and develop strong points. This will guarantee that whatever the circumstances, the people still believe in the leadership and direction of the party and state. Once they are motivated by high resolve and belief, the people will unanimously concur with major party and state policies and measures and will turn them into revolutionary determination and deeds.

Our party directed the Bien Bien Phu campaign not only through guidelines and decisions that were cautious yet bold and clear-sighted, but also through the good examples and vanguard role of each party member. There were instances when the situation developed complicatedly and gave rise to pessimism, vacillation, haste, or worse still, negativism and low combat morale. Primary party organizations launched a movement to conduct straightforward criticism and self-criticism among party cadres and party members and henceforth, generated strength and confidence in the masses. Party members set good examples through their words and deeds and faced difficulties, hardships, and sacrifices. The good examples of party members had great power of persuasion. This constituted a very decisive factor of command and leadership success and of willingness to make self-imposed sacrifices among cadres, combatants, and the entire people. This lesson is still valuable today. The party wants to make its leadership role felt in society and earn strength and credibility in the population. Therefore, each party member must set good examples for the masses to follow. No elaborate and empty terms can help the party earn strength and credibility. In the wars of resistance, party members were willing to make sacrifices. Therefore, in the postwar era, they should also be willing to endure hardships, make sacrifices, look after the people's well-being first, and see to it that their words and deeds help enhance the party's image among the people.

It also needs to recall another lesson about Dien Bien Phu, as this may help inspire new creative impressions among us in a way suitable to the current circumstances. That lesson is about mustering and gathering the strength and wisdom of all the people. One of the important reasons for the the Dien Bien Phu victory was that our party and state had effectively mustered and exploited the combined strength of the entire nation in the spirit: All for the Frontline, All for The Dien Bien Phu Campaign, The Entire Country Is To Be Oriented Toward Dien Bien Phu, and All Battlefields Are To Be Coordinated With Dien Bien Phu. At decisive points, we knew how to direct the manpower and property of the entire nation, of various localities, and of various battlefields at resolutely achieving our target of destroying the Dien Bien Phu stronghold. Today, in the renovation process, our course of action and goal are clear. We have determined our course of action suitable for each particular period of time. It is important that that we must develop to the fullest the latent potential in manpower and wisdom of the entire country, and of every locality, people, and household to unfailingly achieve the goal of

building a prosperous people, a powerful country, and an equitable and civilized society. We have created conditions and premises to advance the country to a new stage of development, but whether we can translate our goal into reality will depend on efforts and energy of every locality, of every echelon, of every sector, and of everyone under the party leadership and the state management.

The mid-term national party conference held in January 1994 analyzed the national situation, pointed out new opportunities and challenges our country is encountering during the period of renovation. In this juncture, we must study various lessons of experience about Dien Bien Phu. These lessons are, in fact, about exploiting to the fullest all the advantages of the new situation so as to overcome difficulties and ordeals in achieving our final victory. As for ordeals, all sorts of seemingly unsurmountable ordeals and difficulties can be found from the Dien Bien Phu lesson. Having been able to overcome difficulties and exploit accurately and effectively all the opportunities in each stage and each battle as well as in the entire Dien Bien Phu campaign, the Vietnamese people have demonstrated their military arts, willpower, and talent. In the current renovation process, to overcome all challenges and to seize opportunities to move forward in national construction and defense, we must develop the willpower, talent, and efforts of the entire people.

The Dien Bien Phu event was just part of the tradition of national construction and defense built up by our forefathers since time immemorial. The Dien Bien Phu tradition is of unmeasurable spiritual value. It must be preserved and passed on from one generation to another. As this tradition is not a object to be kept in a museum, it must be developed into vitality and a determination to surge forward. In every stage of history, we must view the significance of the Dien Bien Phu victory with new thinking and new revelations. In whatever situation, be it advantageous or difficult, we can always find from the Dien Bien Phu victory the most beautiful spiritual value: The determination to fight and to win of our nation, and the desire of the entire Vietnamese people to gain independence, freedom, and happiness. With our intelligence and energy, with our talents and creativity, we are totally able to transform that desire into reality.

With such thinking, the memory of Dien Bien Phu will live forever and the Dien Bien Phu spirit will, at any moment and in any stage, be permeated with vitality. Dien Bien Phu will forever be a source of confidence and pride of our nation!

Australia

Government Reveals Stance on Rwanda Situation

Evans Concerned at Size of UN Force

*BK1805070294 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Australia has expressed reservations about the size of the new United Nations mission for Rwanda. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says Australia will not offer troops to the force until there is a proper mandate and enough soldiers to do the job.

Senator Evans said it was unclear whether the Rwanda operation could be done with the 5,500 troops proposed by the United Nations, and he said there was some distance to go before the Security Council decision could be translated into something that was workable in Rwanda.

The international medical aid organization Doctors Without Borders says the deployment of United Nations troops to Rwanda may come too late to help save thousands of Rwandan civilians. It urged the Security Council to speed up deployment, saying that there are hundreds of people facing systematic slaughter.

Government Position Clarified

*BK2005060494 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 20 May 94*

[Text] The Australian Government has denied a United Nations statement that Australia has agreed to commit troops to a UN peacekeeping force in Rwanda. A UN spokesman had named nine countries, including Australia, what he said would send infantry troops to join the UN force. But an Australian spokesman said that while the government has committed in principle to a peacekeeping mission to Rwanda, it had not decided what form its involvement would take. He said Australia is awaiting an assessment of the Rwandan situation by a UN observer team. The UN plans to send 5,500 troops to Rwanda where hundreds of thousands of people are reported to have died in ethnic violence.

Prospects for Trade With India Viewed Favorably

*BK1205040394 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN
FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 29 Apr 94 p 9*

[Text] Australia could double its exports to the Indian market to around \$2 billion by the end of the decade if local business attitudes are changed, according to a major Federal Government review.

But the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's East Asia Analytical Unit warns that Australia's current market share in India will drop "unless Australia increases its efforts in India".

At a preview of *India's Economy at the Midnight Hour: Australia's India Strategy*, the unit's director, Dr Meredith

Borthwick, said the private sector will have to drop its outdated and largely negative image of the subcontinent.

Dr Borthwick acknowledged that India was a difficult market but "it will repay the perseverance required".

The new report—to be launched by the Minister for Trade, Senator McMullan in Melbourne today—says the Indian business environment is not well regarded, even by Australian companies which have been successful there.

"This negative image must be redressed. Although some difficulties remain, old stereotypes no longer reflect the realities of the Indian market. India is changing, and our competitors have been quick to realise this," the report says.

"More and more, India is being hailed as the 'new tiger' [with annual growth rates of around 6 percent] and its economic prospects are being compared favourably to the other giant in the region, China"

The report chronicles the transformation of India's political and economic climate over the past three years. Key changes include big reductions in industrial tariffs, the easing of foreign investment rules, the abolition of licensing requirements for industrial ventures, tax cuts and increased capital market flexibility. The report says the Indian reform process has passed the point of no return.

"Three years of courageous, bold and rapid liberalisation have sufficiently entrenched deregulation trends in both the popular middle-class thinking and among most economic actors and opinion leaders."

Australia last year enjoyed a trade surplus with India of \$513 million with Australian exports of \$920 million against imports from India of \$407 million. The report concludes that "Australia could double its annual exports to the Indian market by the year 2000" but warns that "opportunistic, ill-researched approaches bear high risks."

Vanuatu

Former NUP Ministers Form New Political Party

*BK1905073794 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 19 May 94*

[Text] A new political party is being formed in Vanuatu by a breakaway faction of the National United Party [NUP] of former prime minister Father Walter Lini. The People's Democratic Party is led by three government ministers who were expelled from the United Party last week. They are Deputy Prime Minister Sethy Regenvanu, Health Minister Edward Tabisari, and Communications Minister Cecil Sinker. The three make up the junior partner in the coalition government of the Union of Moderate Parties. They have been joined by the former agriculture minister, Oneyn Tahi, who accused the NUP of being dictatorial when he resigned from the party.

Mr. Regenvanu said in launching the new party last night that the objective of the People's Democratic Party would be a fair sharing of resources to the advancement of Vanuatu and its people.

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